

Appendix A – Comments on Draft SEIS

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Table A1
Draft SEIS Comment Log

1. Written Comments

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Public Hearing)**

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T3	Donald Hesch		1
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T5	Larry Rogovoy		4
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T7	Marge Sampson		1
T8	Peggy Printz		1
T9	David White		3
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T11	Carol Stewart		1
T12	Maggie Kitch		1
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T14	Lynn Ferguson	Magnuson Environmental Stewardship Alliance (MESA)	4
T15	Eric Versuh		2
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T17	Sara Cooper		1
T18	Ellen Juhl		1
T19	Michael Callahan		1
T20	Diana Kincaid		2
T21	Robert Hunt		1
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T24	Pad Gallagher		2
T25	Mark Roller		2
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T27	Larry Kutz		1
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T29	Richard Deyo		3
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WRITTEN COMMENTS

April 4, 2003

Toivo Rovainen
5501 NE 65th, Apt. 7
Seattle, WA 98115-7866
(206) 853-6665

Mr. Eric Friedli, Director of Planning and Operations
Sand Point Magnusson Park
7400 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Mr. Friedli;

Greetings. I am writing to express my opposition to the Sports Meadow plan.

First, Magnusson Park's beauty partly lies in its open space, bird habitat, and lack of banks of arclights, allowing people to enjoy sunrises, sunsets, and the stars. Vast arrays of arclights will ruin this, and the asphalt and astroturf will not only make drainage worse but destroy habitat.

Second, spending millions of taxpayer dollars during a recession on a gratuitous project is irresponsible.

Third, there are already many sports fields in the city limits with arclights. I have looked out the bus windows many times and seen three or four lit fields, all empty but for three or four kids playing a pick-up game. The people demanding that Magnusson Park be ruined for their benefit are free to drive to the empty, unused lit fields around the city.

Please do not ruin Magnusson Park at great taxpayer expense.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,


Toivo Rovainen

Cc: Mr. Eric Gold, Project Manager

1

2

3

Magnuson Environmental Stewardship Alliance
MESA

**Eric Friedli Director
Warren G. Magnuson Park
7400 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115**

April 7, 2003

Re: SFEIS Affects of Ballfield Noise on Wildlife

Dear Mr. Friedli:

I am here to present the official position of MESA, a group of environmentalists, neighbors and members of Seattle Audubon and Washington Native Plant Society. MESA has worked with the Parks Department for approximately ten years leading work parties to improve native habitat and teach stewardship. We are currently leading approximately six work parties a month on Promontory Point, at the Community Garden, and at the Native Plant Butterfly Garden. We have logged thousands of volunteer hours at this park and planted thousands of native plants in an effort to beautify the park, add to its environmental educational value and to its plant and animal diversity. We are supportive of a balanced, mixed-use plan for the park and worked to get money for its development through the Pro-Parks Levy process.

We have become convinced, however, that the current plan is not balanced. The planned regional all weather sports complex will overwhelm and destroy its sensitive wetland neighbor declared "critical wildlife habitat" by Seattle Ordinance. We favored synthetic turf because it needed less fertilizer and pesticides and thus would be gentler on the adjoining wetlands. It also provides twice the playing time for field sports so we thought fewer fields would be needed. Since they are expensive turf, apparently they must be lit; twice the daylight hours was not enough. The four grass field must be designed to configure three ways essentially adding space for two more fields. The fields, limited in number, must be maximum in size so all soccer fields are larger than American football fields, the international standard, and can hold two normal games. Nearly 1000 players would be active on the fields at one time. MESA feels this overkill will kill the balance of the park.

This SFEIS is to provide the Mayor and City Council with a specific set of impacts to wildlife that may occur from this huge increase in ballfield play and the associated construction. Section 2.2.1 states that high sounds affects bats, mid level sounds affect birds, humans and larger mammals, and low level sounds affect frogs and smaller mammals. That is pretty much everything. Section 2.2 lists scientifically proven consequences on noise....disrupted ability to communicate, interference with behavior patterns, mating, ability to get adequate food, cover, water, increased heart rate, hearing loss, noise-induced stress, nests left by parents so young perish from cold or predators.

The report goes on to state that the studies done have involved different situations but logically concludes the more tolerant species will stay and others will leave. No species are named that will stay or leave.

It would be safe to venture a guess that crows, starlings, pigeons, and English sparrows will stay. How many of the other approximately 200 species listed in the FEIS will stay is in doubt. I took a list of birds of Special Concern in the US taken from BirdWeb. These are birds with declining populations or at risk in some other way. Of the 115 listed that are in Washington State, 24 have been seen at Magnuson Park and officially recorded by Seattle Audubon as listed in the FEIS: Common Loon (sensitive), Horned Grebe (monitored), Red-necked Grebe (monitored), Western Grebe (candidate), Canvasback (listed), Osprey (monitored), Bald Eagle (threatened), Cooper's Hawk (listed), Merlin (candidate), Peregrin Falcon (Endangered), Caspian Tern (monitored), Short-eared Owl (listed), Black Swift (listed), Vaux's Swift (listed), Rufous Hummingbird (listed), Piliated Woodpecker (candidate), Olive-sided Flycatcher (listed), Willow Flycatcher (listed), Yellow Warbler (listed), Black-throated Gray Warbler (listed), a Vesper Sparrow (candidate). Interesting birds will leave; common birds will stay. Will our nesting birds continue to nest? Gadwall, California Quail, Killdeer, Barn Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Bewicks's Wren Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Western Tanager, Spotted Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullocks's Oriole and our state bird, the American Goldfinch all have nested here. Will they stay through the construction, lights, and noise....unknown but continued monitoring is important as work progresses.

2
CONT

Concerning the impacts of noise on mammals and amphibians, the SFEIS states that large mammals will not be impacted because none are on the site...even excluding humans I have personally seen raccoons, opossums, muskrats, coyotes (a few years ago) and think mountain beaver could be present since they are at other large urban parks like Carkeek Park and they are very secretive. Impacts on these mammals cannot be dismissed. Relating to amphibians, the type of frog addressed in the literature search(Wollerman and Wiley, 2002, Gerhardt and Klump, 1988, Barass, 1985 and Wiley, 2002) are the predominant kind we have at Magnuson, Pacific Chorus Frogs who depend on group chorusing to communicate during mating season in February and March. Anyone who has tried to creep up on them knows that they are very sensitive to even the slightest sound and the beautiful chorus falls silent.

3

Finally MESA would like to express dismay at the proposed keeping of the interior ¼ mile long asphalt road and parking lot in the Lesser Capacity Alternative. Removing this road and parking lot after the construction in Phase I, would do much to mitigate the disruption of development and cost little. It seems to be left in to make the lesser alternative look bad.

4

Magnuson is the last great open space in the city and it is located on Lake Washington. It is an incredible asset to our quality of life and that of the wildlife

around us. The city is at a crossroads as is this park and must make a choice.... A great urban park of balanced uses or an all-weather regional sports complex in the heart of residential neighborhood. Soccer and baseball players don't want to have to drive out of the city to have a regional tournament at night. Environmentalists and neighbors don't want to have to leave the city to teach their children and grandchildren about nature and experience its peace. To MESA the choice is a no-brainer...Magnuson must stay a park for all.

Lynn Ferguson, Chair MESA
6422 NE 60th St.
Seattle Washington, 98115

APRIL 7, 2003

W3
P1.

Our Concerns about the draft SEIS:

- The DSEIS admits that "...sound levels associated sports field activity as a result of this plan, will exceed sound levels identified in research as resulting in reduced breeding bird density..." However it discounts this finding on the false basis that noise associated with sports field activity cannot be equated with noise associated with vehicular traffic.

Our Concern #1: This discounting is entirely erroneous and misleading to the public. The research referenced in the D-SEIS on the influence of anthropogenic noise on bird breeding density is based on a noise metric known as the A-weighted decibel level (dBA), where the A-weighting refers to how the sound's frequency content is evaluated. Sound levels expressed in this manner are entirely equivalent for the purposes of evaluating environmental noise effects and community noise effects. No study on community or environmental noise distinguishes the type of noise that enters into the A-weighted measurement.

1

Parks misleads both decision makers and the public on the issue of stewardship of the present and future breeding populations song birds in SPMP. These populations will be environmentally impacted from the high noise levels emitted from adjacent sports fields. We demand that this impact be recognized.

Our Concern #2: The D-SEIS states that "...potential changes in bird density from sports field noise could be masked or offset by improved function of habitat in park with the proposed action..." This speculation is an insult to Seattle's wildlife stewardship community. There is no basis for it. There is no funding identified for the wetland's restoration. There is ample evidence indicating that "restored" wetlands now subject to lights and noise will not be equivalent to existing conditions.

2

Our Concern #3: The D-SEIS states that "...predominant sources of existing noise within the wildlife habitat areas...include traffic on Sandpoint Way..." The intent of this statement is to lead decision makers and the public to believe that existing conditions are already contaminated by vehicle noise.

But, this statement is wholly contradicted by the sound level data recorded on the western boundary of the sports fields (near Sand Point Community Housing Association or SPCHA site) and documented in Appendix E of the FEIS. These data show: (1) a very quiescent noise environment during the morning and evening commute on Sandpoint way, and (2) an increase in noise level that is highly correlated with the onset and cessation of organized sport field activity on the fields adjacent to SPCHA. Thus, the wetlands being located an additional 500 or so feet from Sandpoint way compared with the location of the SPCHA site, are in fact endowed with a quiescent noise environment conducive to breeding populations of song birds. Furthermore, the wetlands, just as the people who live at the SPCHA, will be subjected to artificially high noise levels that are sustained until 11 PM. We demand that these facts and their consequences be explicitly recognized and documented for decision makers and the public.

3

Regarding the wetlands, We, as citizens of Seattle:

(1) do not want the present wetlands destroyed.

(2) do not want an empty promise to build a new wetlands

(3) do not want whatever remains to be subject to highly unnatural light and noise



David P. White (resident of 65th and 51st Ave NE)
PO Box 15937
Seattle, WA 98115

whitedavidp@attbi.com

APRIL 7, 2001

W4
P1

Our Concerns about the draft SEIS:

- The DSEIS admits that "...sound levels associated sports field activity as a result of this plan, will exceed sound levels identified in research as resulting in reduced breeding bird density..." However it discounts this finding on the false basis that noise associated with sports field activity cannot be equated with noise associated with vehicular traffic.

Our Concern #1: This discounting is entirely erroneous and misleading to the public. The research referenced in the D-SEIS on the influence of anthropogenic noise on bird breeding density is based on a noise metric known as the A-weighted decibel level (dBA), where the A-weighting refers to how the sound's frequency content is evaluated. Sound levels expressed in this manner are entirely equivalent for the purposes of evaluating environmental noise effects and community noise effects. No study on community or environmental noise distinguishes the type of noise that enters into the A-weighted measurement.

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2

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But, this statement is wholly contradicted by the sound level data recorded on the western boundary of the sports fields (near Sand Point Community Housing Association or SPCHA site) and documented in Appendix E of the FEIS. These data show: (1) a very quiescent noise environment during the morning and evening commute on Sandpoint way, and (2) an increase in noise level that is highly correlated with the onset and cessation of organized sport field activity on the fields adjacent to SPCHA. Thus, the wetlands being located an additional 500 or so feet from Sandpoint way compared with the location of the SPCHA site, are in fact endowed with a quiescent noise environment conducive to breeding populations of song birds. Furthermore, the wetlands, just as the people who live at the SPCHA, will be subjected to artificially high noise levels that are sustained until 11 PM. We demand that these facts and their consequences be explicitly recognized and documented for decision makers and the public.

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(3) do not want whatever remains to be subject to highly unnatural light and noise

VICTORIA SIMMONS

**Victoria Simmons (resident of 65th and 51st Ave NE)
PO Box 15937
Seattle, WA 98115**

victsimm@attbi.com

April 7, 2003

To: Review Committee,
Seattle Parks and Recreation Department

Submitted by: Richard Deyo
6543 54th Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

Subject: Proposed Construction-15 athletic fields at Magnuson Park

I wish to express strong opposition to the proposed construction of 15 athletic fields at Magnuson Park. This project will adversely affect the environment and surrounding community, and displays inappropriate stewardship for one of Seattle's premier waterfront parks.

The city has been entrusted with a rare asset - acres of land along Lake Washington's waterfront. Current vistas provide citizens with spectacular views of Mt. Rainier, the Cascades, and Lake Washington. Evening vistas are equally stunning, with panoramic views of the neighboring shoreline. Few opportunities exist for Seattle to protect such prized waterfront property for today and future generations- a place where citizens can come to the water for relaxation, refuge, and beauty. The proposal to convert 22 acres of a waterfront park to 11 lighted artificial turf fields makes no more sense than designing athletic fields at Alki Beach, South Lake Union, or Gas Works Park.

The noise levels from 15 ball fields will negatively affect other park uses. This facility includes pathways for jogging and walking, beaches for swimming and kayaking, open spaces for summer festivals, community gardens, offices for nonprofit organizations, and housing (immediately adjacent to the lighted ball fields). Concerts and live theater are among the current activities in the park that would become impossible.

Noise levels from this development will adversely affect wildlife that currently inhabits the park, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods. Magnuson Parks rests at the base of a hill which readily transmits sound (like an amphitheater) to residents living above. Asking thousands of residents to endure such noise pollution until 11 pm each evening is unjust and unreasonable.

Residents of this community respectfully request the city to initiate a study to establish the need for additional ball fields and to identify alternative sites. Building ball fields based upon need (all other fields are booked 100% of the time; no other fields can be upgraded) may be reasonable, but no such study has been presented. Nor has there been a study to identify alternatives prior to conclusion of the decision-making process. One possibility would be to examine the feasibility of a cooperative effort with the Port of Seattle. The Port has several sites in need of development. Such properties may have some of the necessary infrastructure already in place, and offer a better match of multiple lighted ball fields with uses of surrounding areas.

Molly Hashimoto
7303 58th AV NE
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 527-0796

Department of Parks and Recreation

April 7, 2003

Comments Re: DEIS Sandpoint Magnuson Park
Potential Wildlife Response, section 2.3.2 DEIS

I would like to raise concerns about Potential Wildlife Response, section 2.3.2 of the DEIS. It states that "because the sources of sound that elicit the types of wildlife response patterns studied in the literature are quite different from the expected sound types anticipated from the athletic fields, it is very difficult to make substantive correlations between sound levels and wildlife responses." If there are no comparable studies available, then you need to delay any construction until you can undertake a comparable study. It is very irresponsible to begin an irreversible process until you have all the facts—you are far from having all the data you need.

As a neighbor of the park, and as an artist who frequently uses the park, I take our city's responsibility for preserving it as a place of beauty and a haven for wildlife quite seriously. I submit these comments in hopes that you will take your own responsibility as seriously.

Sincerely,



Molly Hashimoto

Written Testimony

Why has there been no
alternative site study done?

There are many industrial areas
that could be used for all or part
of these ~~new~~ soccer fields.

This project needs to be in an
industrial area!

Is there some reason that the city
is not telling the public
that Magnusson Park has been
chosen?

Sara Kypur

4/7/03

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to express my concern about ^{noise} sound pollution as a result of the plans for the SPMP Sports Complex. My concerns stem from several areas:

① This is a beautiful park that is known for its large ~~empty~~ ~~fields~~ wetlands and quiet surroundings and wildlife. The sports complex will totally destroy the feeling of the park. The complex will also adversely affect the breeding habits of wild ~~life~~ ^{birds}.

② The noise associated with the Sports complex will also adversely affect the residents of CHH and the surrounding neighborhoods impacting many quiet evenings and children's bed times and sleeping patterns.

③ The noise will be made by a ~~few~~ ^{select} athletes but impact a majority of the community. The desires of a few should not replace the needs of a larger community.

→

Please do not put in the Sports complex
at a site that is being proposed. This
is unacceptable to the community
and should be redrafted and the
the plan
complex should be ~~planned~~ placed elsewhere

Baria Belza
7050 56th Ave NE
Seattle

Dear Decision Makers -

This proposed development is totally inappropriate for this area.

The city didn't even explore alternative sites for these fields and lights.

The accompanying noise will disrupt and destroy habitat for many species living in Magnuson. And will cause unconscionable disruption to the human residents living around the park.

Magnuson Park is the last undeveloped waterfront park in the area. It is one of Seattle's treasures. It should be preserved, not destroyed.

It's ironic that millions are being spent to create a park in a commercial area on South Lake Union - and now proposes to spend millions to turn a beautiful, natural park into an intensely lit, noisy commercial development.

Putting a huge, organized sports complex in a sensitive area, in a residential neighborhood is obscene.

The plan is simplistic and short-sighted. History will not look kindly on those who push this monstrosity forward, should it go through.

Please take a more reasoned approach to finding locations for sports fields and look elsewhere to put lighted fields.

Sincerely,

AL Skar
7060 - 56TH AVE. NE
SEATTLE, WA 98115

Joyce Teshima
7060 56TH AVE. NE
Seattle, WA 98115

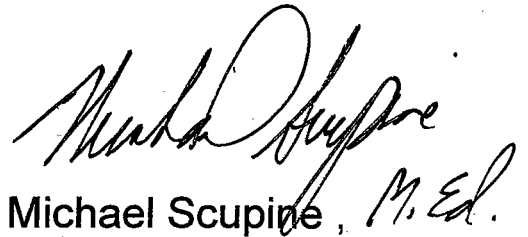
As members of the Audubon society, we stand in protest
proposed destruction of natural wetlands.

The promise to rebuild wetlands is not satisfactory. The
proposed illumination of the fields will disturb
birdlife and neighborhood atmosphere. I oppose
Supplemental EIS of Magnuson Park.



Kim Gittere Abson, MD

~~XXXXXX~~



Michael Scupine, M.Ed.

David Hashimoto
7303 58th Av. NE
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 527-0796

Comments on Sand Point Magnuson Park Draft Supplemental EIS, March 2003

I strongly object to the manner in which the Department of Parks and Recreation conducted its studies for the Draft Supplemental EIS. As it has throughout the EIS process, the Department has taken measurements and made assumptions that are designed to minimize serious impacts on wildlife that will be caused by a massive sports complex.

The Department measured noise at the park on a Friday and Sunday afternoon in March. These are exactly the times when activity, especially sports activities, are minimal. On Friday, there were only lacrosse practices at two locations. On Sunday, there were only "several" ultimate-frisbee games. There are many times during the year when Magnuson Park has significantly higher use and noise levels. The Department needs to measure noise levels during a soccer tournament or during high use of current sports fields in the summer in order to get a true reading of current noise levels.

Even if the Department measured noise levels at the highest current usage of park facilities, the noise would be far, far lower than the noise created by the huge increase in sports facilities under the Department's proposal. In addition, current natural surfaces in the park absorb noise, while the artificial field surfaces and the many parking areas and roads around the proposed sports fields will increase noise effects.

The Department's measurements of noise for the Final EIS were adjusted to remove the portion of noise created by "nearby human activity, traffic, and airplane noise." The effects of noise are cumulative. Existing noise around the park should not be ignored when measuring the effect of increased sports activity in the park. In addition, the Department should consider the effect of increased traffic and increased "human activity" that will surround the park once the sports complex is in operation.

The report acknowledges that noise may result in behavior that increases wildlife mortality. The report also indicates that behavioral responses by wildlife to noise can be confounded by visual cues such as are caused by aircraft. The report should have considered the effect of the "visual cue" of 640,000 watts of lighting until 11pm 365 days per year when it is added to the greatly increased noise levels created by the sports complex.

The Department states, "The proposed action would create temporary, intermittent noise associated with construction and demolition activities." I do not consider ten years of construction and demolition to be temporary and will vote with my feet to move from the City of Seattle if this construction activity is approved. I expect that much of the wildlife in Magnuson Park will also vote with their feet or wings and move from the area.

Magnuson Park is one of the few sanctuaries for wildlife left in the city. The city has an opportunity to create a true paradise for wildlife by restoring wetland areas in the park. The city can destroy paradise with plans for a massive sports complex.

As Joni Mitchell said, "Hate paradise? Put up a parking lot." The Department of Parks and Recreation must truly hate paradise. It wants to put up four field parking lots ringing eleven artificial athletic fields that will be lighted every night. That should be enough to scare away all wildlife expect starlings, pigeons and rats.

6057 Ann Arbor Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98115-7618
April 14, 2003

Eric Friedli, Director of Planning and Operations
Warren G. Magnuson Park
7400 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

RE: DSEIS comments

Dear Mr. Friedli:

Please accept these comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

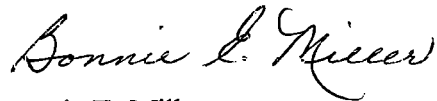
It was with some trepidation that I read the document. I had expected that the preparers of the DSEIS would be lacking in the diligence to obtain credible information on noise effects from the proposed drainage, wetland/habitat complex and the sports fields/courts project. On that I was not disappointed. However, there are some points that I feel are significant and which were not adequately addressed.

- Comparing the noise level of the current configuration taken during a lacrosse practice and during Frisbee games at Magnuson Park is not as accurate a measurement as if the noise levels used as a basis were those taken at a sports complex on which several of the field sports for which these fields are expected to generate noise. The DSEIS would/could have been a much better document if noise levels were from like-sports activities. I would suggest that measurements be re-done to reflect the "true" noise levels of games. Likely, the more reliable noise level would include very similar acoustic environment as does the traffic on a City arterial and from over head air traffic. 1
- The noise levels of the proposed development does not adequately address the kind of levels produced by air horns, portable announcement systems, and interior parking lot and traffic noises. 2
- While the DSEIS attempts to describe the effect of construction noises, nowhere is there a response to the effect of the ten year long construction noise (p. 2-8). 3
- On page 2-12, there is a suggestion that athletic activities be limited to avoid early morning hours during nesting seasons. Warren G. Magnuson Park is an area in which the Migratory Bird Act affects; where is the research that shows us that any development of this scale will not be illegal? 4
- Removal of the interior road is not scheduled for Phase I. While destroying habitat of the magnitude described in the proposed plan for Phase I, it would have seemed logical and reasonable for the removal to occur as a first step in order to assure the wildlife have a shelter from the noise of the construction and activities of the sports complex at the onset. 5

- I find flaws in the argument that mammals may be less susceptible to ambient noises and are unlikely to be negatively impacted by the change in noise conditions associated with the project. Where is the science to back up this statement? The research cited deals with wildlife "closer to the ground" rather than with mammals who habituate under the ground. Raptors depend upon the small mammals for their food. 6
- On one hand, your DSEIS suggests that while wildlife may abandon the area during the 10-year construction period they may return but you also state the area may attract fewer of our native species and may attract more noise-tolerant species. I doubt that the citizens of Seattle will be thrilled to come to Magnuson Park to view the wildlife if the more noise-tolerant crows, pigeons, and rats become the dominant wildlife. 7
- Considering that noise has a devastating impact on wildlife, which the DSEIS attempts to do, and considering that it is in the best interest of the City of Seattle and the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation to do as little harm as possible during this process, it would seem that the requirement to provide a safer refuge for the wildlife during the development would and should be a priority. The center parking lot and the road leading to that parking lot should be removed first, before any construction activity begins if you are serious about mitigating the impact of noise on wildlife. 8

The DSEIS is a good place to start; it does not answer the questions of the effects of the KINDS of noise associated with construction and operation of this proposed regional sports complex on wildlife.

Sincerely,



Bonnie E. Miller



W13
P1

DiscNW
P.O. Box 85112
Seattle, WA 98145

15 April 2003

Eric Friedli
Planning and Operations Director
Sand Point Magnuson Park
7400 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

SEATTLE PARKS & RECREATION
SUPERINTENDENT

APR 17 2003

Mr. Friedli:

I am writing to again show my organization's support for the Proposed Action as outlined in the Sand Point Magnuson Park Draft Supplemental EIS (21 March 2003). The nearly 4000 participant in DiscNW's year-round leagues appreciate the work you and your department have done helping this plan evolve over the years.

DiscNW has been using Sand Point Magnuson Park for our ultimate (Frisbee) leagues since 1985 and we consider the park our home. The level of disrepair in the existing sports fields represents an ongoing safety hazard to our youth and adult participants. The proposed synthetic fields, which are not subject to the whims of nature, will save ankles and knees in addition to eliminating the water and fertilizer usually used to maintain grass fields.

We ask, however, that the references in the document to "soccer" fields be changed to "multi-use" or "multi-sport" fields to better reflect their design and intended usage. In addition, we ask that fields #12 and 13 be lighted from the perimeter of the field so as to better allow multiple sports usage of these fields. DiscNW has been participating actively in the design phase of this project and we appreciate your continuing attention to these matters.

I realize that lighting, and the additional hours of field use that it brings, is a contentious issue. Our organization fully supports lighting the synthetic fields and we are willing to work with neighbors to reduce the impact on their homes. In addition, ultimate players are caretakers of our environment and we will work hard to reduce the impact of field noise and lights on the flora and fauna surrounding the complex.

The need for the additional fields in the Proposed Action is obvious. Overall, our leagues have grown nearly four-fold in the past five years; our youth spring league is now larger than our adult spring league. Limiting our continued growth is a chronic lack of field space in Seattle. We have been sending players to Shoreline, Bothell, Fort Dent and even Burlington to find new homes for our sport. Adaptation of anything other than the Proposed Action tells our youth that we do not value health, exercise, or spirited competition.

Please feel free to contact me at the address above or the email address below with any questions or comments you may have. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Yours truly,


Mike Keran

cc: Ken Bounds, Department of Parks and Recreation

Mike Keran

Executive Director, DiscNW

ed@discnw.org

DiscNW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit who's mission is to serve as a regional resource, promoting growth in the sport of Ultimate and instilling the spirit of sportsmanship at all levels of play

Yvonne M. Mattson

4002 Browns Point Blvd NE
Tacoma, Washington 98422
(253) 568-7421
yvonnemattson@attbi.com

April 17, 2003

Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation
Sand Point Magnuson Park
Eric Friedli, Planning and Operations Director
7400 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

Sent Via Email: eric.friedli@ci.seattle.wa.us

RE: Sand Point Magnuson Park Draft SEIS, Ecology File No. 200301630

Dear Mr. Friedli:

Please include my comment letter regarding the inadequacy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) for the Sand Point Magnuson Park Drainage, Wetland/Habitat Complex and Sports Fields/Courts Project in the official record.

The Draft SEIS is inadequate because it fails to comply with the Hearing Examiner's order for the reasons stated herein.

Inadequate Timing: As Exemplified in Section 1.2 of the Draft SEIS

The first problem with the Draft SEIS is that it assesses, for the first time, environmental factors that should have been presented to decision makers at an earlier stage in the project's progression. The Draft SEIS states that the Final EIS for the Sand Point Magnuson Park Drainage Project that was issued on July 12, 2002 represents one tier in a series of phases to develop the Sports Field / Courts Project.¹ It further states that the EIS for the first tier of the project was issued in October 1996 and that the project was tiered to allow "lead agencies and decision makers to focus on issues that are ready for consideration and decision at the appropriate time."² It was not until July 2002 that the EIS included "project-level detail and environmental review."³

The failure to consider earlier the impacts of sports field noise on wildlife is problematic because the "EI[S] shall serve as the means of assessing the environmental impact of proposed agency

¹ *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Ecology File No. 200301630, 1-4 (March 2003).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

action, rather than justifying decisions already made.”⁴ In order to ensure that environmental values are considered during the decision-making process by state and local agencies, the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) rules direct agencies to consider the environmental values “before an agency commits to a particular course of action.”⁵ Because the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) knew that the eventual outcome of obtaining the property and going through the “Reuse Project” was to develop a sports field,⁶ the impact of sports field noise on wildlife should have been included in the 1996 EIS. It is not necessary to wait until the DPR develops a specific design for the sports field in order to evaluate the overall impact that noise from a sports field, of any design, will have on wildlife. The problem now posed is that the project may be so underway that the agencies have already determined whether or not to approve the project, which could make the Draft SEIS a mere formality, undercutting the purposes and policies of SEPA.⁷

1
CONT

Although the time is too late to include the environmental assessment in the previous Final EISs (i.e. the 1996 Final EIS or the 2002 Final EIS), the DPR should use heightened care when evaluating the impact of sports field noise on wildlife in order to ensure that the environmental impacts are evaluated during the decision-making process. Furthermore, in projects that will be undertaken in the future, the DPR should include assessments of all known environmental impacts in the first EIS, even though the project may be composed of phases. Presenting known impacts to decision makers at an early stage in the process will help to fulfill the underlying policies and purposes of SEPA,⁸ instead of making SEPA a mere formality.

2

Section 2.2 – Identifying the Effect of Noise on Wildlife

At the outset it is important to note that this section of the Draft SEIS is inadequate because it fails to consider noise equivalents. Noise equivalents fall under the definition of “noise” provided in the Draft SEIS,⁹ however, noise equivalents (e.g. vibrations) are not included in the analysis or research. Instead, the Draft SEIS only discusses the impacts of audible noises on wildlife.¹⁰ To the extent that reptiles and amphibians perceive sound equivalents such as vibrations, an analysis of the impact of noise equivalents from the sports field must be added for these species.

3

An additional problem with the Draft SEIS is that the application of the impact of sports field noise is not species specific. The July 2002 Final EIS, which is incorporated into the Draft

4

⁴ WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 197-11-400 (1984).

⁵ WAC § 197-11-055(2)(c) (emphasis added).

⁶ Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, *supra* note 1, (“The 1996 EIS provided environmental review for the programmatic guidance established in the reuse plan to develop sports fields ... The July 2002 Final EIS provides project-level detail and environmental review specifically for the ... Sports Fields/Courts Project, which is possible and appropriate now that the DPR has developed a specific design for the project.”).

⁷ *SEPA Handbook*, Washington State Dept. of Ecology, Publication No. 98-114, 1, (1998) (“SEPA is intended to ensure that environmental values are considered during the decision-making by state and local agencies.”).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, *supra* note 1, 2-4, (defining noise as “unwanted sound.”).

¹⁰ *Id.* at 2-5 (limiting analysis to “intensity, frequency, and duration.”).

SEIS,¹¹ clearly delineates the wildlife that would be affected by the project. Unfortunately, the Draft SEIS does not adequately address the impact that noise will have on the individual species, in part because it does not delineate the impacted species individually as the Final EIS does. The Draft SEIS categorizes the animals into broad groups (i.e. larger mammals, smaller mammals, birds, etc.).¹² However, noise and noise equivalents may not have the same impact on all of the animals within these “categories.” The DPR acknowledges this fact,¹³ yet the DPR fails to evaluate the impact that noise will have on the individual species known to inhabit the area. It is necessary to follow a similar format that was used in the July 2002 Final EIS, by discussing how the noise will impact each species of the wildlife, or, if the species are going to be grouped together, the Draft SEIS must include a discussion explaining why the effects that noise has on those species are so similar that it is appropriate to group those species together.

4
CONT

The failure to give any specificity to the effect of noise on wildlife has further implications. Without addressing the potential problems, the DPR cannot identify whether the noise impacts on the wildlife are significantly adverse, nor can the DPR adequately address mitigation measures. Thus, the failure to adequately address the impact of the sports field noise on each specie of the listed animals, *ipso facto*, renders the entire Draft SEIS inadequate because the Draft EIS “shall inform decision-makers and the public of reasonable alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment.”¹⁴

5

Additionally, Section 2.2, in its entirety, is too vague, which renders the Draft SEIS useless to decision-makers as they attempt to assess the impact of sports field noise on wildlife. For example, when discussing the primary, secondary, and tertiary effects that the noise may have on animals, the Draft SEIS cites to dated, general research. Instead, the DPR should conduct research specifically analyzing the likely impact of sports field noise on the wildlife that inhabits the affected area. The July 2002 Final EIS indicates that the DPR knows precisely which species of wildlife will be impacted by the proposed action. Moreover, the research specific data, not the general research, should be cited as authority in the Draft SEIS.

6

Furthermore, Section 2.2 fails to comply with the Hearing Examiner’s order, which was to assess the impact that sports field noise will have on wildlife. The July 2002 Final EIS discussed the identical issues that are discussed in the Draft SEIS,¹⁵ yet the hearing examiner, through his order, implicitly stated that this discussion was inadequate. The Draft SEIS does very little to expand on the discussion that was previously presented to the examiner in the July 2002 Final EIS. For instance, as discussed above, the Draft SEIS lacks a discussion of how the noise from the sports field will impact the individual wildlife species listed in the 2002 Final EIS.

7

¹¹ *Id.* at 2-1.

¹² *Id.* at 2-5.

¹³ *Id.*, (“Overall, the literature suggest that species differ very much in their response to various types, durations, and sources of noise.”).

¹⁴ 40 C.F.R. § 1502.1 (1981).

¹⁵ *Final Environmental Impact Statement*, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, 4-53 – 4-59, 4-60 – 4-63 (July 2002).

Potential Wildlife Response

The DPR fails to make a good faith effort to comply with the Hearing Examiner's order to assess the impact of sports field noise on wildlife. The Draft SEIS states, "Because the sources of sound that elicit the types of wildlife response patterns studies in the literature are quite different from the expected sound types anticipated from the athletic fields, it is very difficult to make substantive correlations between sound levels and wildlife response."¹⁶ This is a faulty assertion. First, noise from the sports complex, will include an increase in automobile noises and noise equivalents, as the proposed action would more than triple the parking lot size. It is very possible to apply the existing research regarding the impacts that automobiles sounds and sound equivalents to the data delineating the species of wildlife that have been identified as inhabitants of the area.

8

Second, the Draft SEIS is inadequate because it does not effectively analogize the sounds and sound equivalents that will emanate from the sports field to other sounds and sound equivalents that have a known effect on wildlife. The DPR could take statistics on noise and noise equivalents from other sports fields of similar size. Those statistics can then be compared to other known noise and noise equivalents known to have an effect on wildlife. The DPR could then analogize to those figures and apply those figures to the wildlife. Instead, the DPR chose simply to state that the "research literature the type of noise generated from sports complexes has gone virtually unexamined in the context of wildlife response"¹⁷ and failed to make substantive correlations between sound levels and wildlife responses. This is a direct disregard of the Hearing Examiner's order, which directed the DPR to prepare a Draft SEIS that assesses the impacts of sports field noise on wildlife.

9

Potential Wildlife Response of Birds

Again, this portion of the Draft SEIS is inadequate for lack of specificity. When discussing the effect that noises may have on birds, the Draft SEIS states, "*some* bird species in the nearby habitat are more tolerate of increased noise levels."¹⁸ This presents numerous questions, none of which are discussed in the Draft SEIS. Which species of birds have higher tolerances to noise? How does a bird's tolerance affect the impact that sports filed noise will have on the bird? To elaborate, even though birds with a higher tolerance may remain in the area, do they become more aggressive? Or does tolerance equate to having no effect at all? These questions need to be addressed in order to fully inform the decision-maker of the environmental effects.

10

Potential Wildlife Response of Mammals

In this section, the Draft SEIS fails to address the impact of sports field noise on entire groups of mammals simply because most mammals that inhabit the area only inhabit the area at night. The word "most" means that there are still some mammals that do inhabit the park during the day, yet the Draft SEIS fails to discuss the impact that noise will have on these mammals. The Draft SEIS

11

¹⁶ Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, *supra* note 1, 2-11.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.* at 2-12.

needs to address the impact of sports field noise on all wildlife in the area, not just selected wildlife in the area.

11
CONT

Potential Wildlife Response of Amphibians and Reptiles

The research is too incomplete to inform a decision-maker about the possible impact of sports field noise on these animals. The research states that noise may result in decreased reproductive output, but that noise levels are not expected to reach levels that will affect these animals. These assertions need to be supported by evidence. This can be done by simply stating what level of noise results in a decreased reproductive output, and by stating what level of noise is expected to emanate from the sports field. Furthermore, as previously discussed, to the extent that reptiles and amphibians perceive sound equivalents such as vibrations, an analysis of the impact of noise equivalents from the sports field must be added for these species.

12

Mitigation Measures

Until the Draft SEIS is redrafted to cure the lack of specificity that the sports field noise will have on the wildlife, it is impossible to evaluate the adequacy of the mitigation measures. Mitigation includes:

(1) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, by using appropriate technology, or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts; (3) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; (5) Compensating for the impact by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and/or (6) Monitoring the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures.¹⁹

13

Because the Draft SEIS does not comply with the Hearing Examiner's order - it fails to analyze the impact of noise on the wildlife - by definition, it is impossible to evaluate the mitigation measures. Once all impacts are clearly identified, then the timing will be appropriate to evaluate the mitigation measures.

Summary

In conclusion, this Draft SEIS fails to comply with the examiner's order because it does not discuss the impact of sports field noise on wildlife. The Final SEIS should 1) contain an analysis of the impact of noise equivalents from the sports field on wildlife capable of perceiving the sound equivalents; 2) list the effect that noise will have on each individual species listed in the July 2002 Final EIS; 3) be more specific by conducting research on the wildlife and area likely to

¹⁹ WAC 197-11-768 (emphasis added).

be effected, rather than rely on outdated, non-site/animal specific research; 4) address the impact that the sports facility noise will have on wildlife, as ordered by the Hearing Examiner, rather than merely restating information from the Final EIS that was already deemed to be inadequate; 5) work on analogizing to give more specific examples of wildlife response; 6) apply the research to the species listed and complete the impact portion of the analysis; 7) re-evaluate the mitigation measures once the impacts are clearly identified. Additionally, future EISs should consider the impacts of a project before the agency commits to the particular course of action.

Best regards,

[emailed without signature to avoid delay]

Yvonne M. Mattson

Eric Friedli - Oppose Sports Complex Noise Pollution

From: Gail Chiarello <circe@drizzle.com>
To: <Eric.Friedli@seattle.gov>
Date: 4/17/2003 5:36 PM
Subject: Oppose Sports Complex Noise Pollution

Dear Eric Friedli,

I am alarmed at the noise impacts of the planned Sports Complex. You can imagine what 22 acres of screaming sports fans will do to the song of the olive-sided flycatcher, a migrant bird which is passing through Magnuson Park even as I write this. It is known for a "Whip Three Beers" song which will be totally lost in the whipping, jeering, beer-frenzied applause and cheers of the sports fans.

Magnuson Park has been a refuge of silence and stillness. Last weekend I took a friend from San Diego on a walk through the park. She was so impressed that such a beautiful park existed within city limits. When we got to the south end of the park, near the boat launch, cheers and jeers rose up from aroused sports fans at some field out of sight. It was an ugly and discordant sound, so different from what we had been listening to. Yet these were probably amateur players, playing on a single grassy field.

The sound, multiplied eleven times or more, would wreck the tranquillity which is such a lovely feature of the park.

Sincerely,

Gail Chiarello
4048 NE 58th Street
Seattle, WA 98105
Tel 206-523-0715



7729 57th Avenue, NE
Seattle, WA 98115
April 19, 2003

Eric Friedli
Director
Sand Point Magnuson Park
7400 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle WA 98105

Dear Mr. Friedli:

Future generations may wonder why Sand Point Magnuson Park remains an oasis of tranquility where songbirds roost and Seattle families can relax with their children and enjoy the pristine shoreline, long after noise and congestion have driven off wildlife in most other areas of the city. They won't remember your name, or mine.

But it will be our legacy – preserving this precious area in its natural state.

Please locate the playfields somewhere else, somewhere that is not the home of countless feathered and furry creatures who will be driven away by the noise and have nowhere else to live.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy J. Printz
523-6301

W17
P1**Eric Friedli - written comment on SEIS**

From: Joan & Chuck Sienkiewicz <csienk@whidbey.com>
To: <eric.friedli@ci.seattle.wa.us>
Date: 4/20/2003 9:26 PM
Subject: written comment on SEIS

It is preposterous to think that 22 square acres of artificial turf lit up like 60 % of Safeco field will not have a deleterious effect on the wildlife and natural habits of Magnuson Park. To take an urban oasis such as this, the only remaining public waterfront park in the city and turn it into a massive lighted sports venue is carnage at best!!! Responsible decision makers need to take a close look at this project and ask: Is it acceptable to exceed the city's noise ordinance in a neighborhood of fragile families? Is it acceptable to light up the sky until 11pm at night where no one will have a view or will see the stars? Is it acceptable to bring thousands of new cars into a neighborhood with already existing traffic congestion? Is it acceptable to ignore the will of the people who reside in the neighborhood and are most affected by this project? Responsible decision makers would say "NO"

1

Joan & Chuck Sienkiewicz
5710 N.E. 77th St.
Seattle Wa. 98115
csienk@whidbey.com
360-730-1329

W18
P1**Eric Friedli - Magnuson lighting**

From: Herbert Blau <hblau@u.washington.edu>
To: Eric Friedli <eric.friedli@ci.seattle.wa.us>
Date: 4/18/2003 6:45 PM
Subject: Magnuson lighting

Dear Mr. Friedli:

I was unfortunately out of town when my neighbors were gathered to protest what has been proposed for Magnuson Park. For I would certainly have wanted to testify about what, beyond any good intentions, amounts to depredations upon the park, its ecology, the neighborhood itself, and even the sky at night. As it happens, I'm relatively new to Seattle, and I was astonished when I first learned that the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the City Council, can with the envisioned blaze of light be so blind to what makes the city, and particularly this neighborhood, attractive. And while I can understand any neighborhood to contribute equitably to civic improvement, this seems, close up as the invasiveness will be, far from that.

1

Nobody, I'm sure, is opposed to more athletic fields, but there's no conceivable way to justify keeping those lights up as long as they intend to. You've heard, no doubt, all the arguments against them, and I've heard nothing whatever that even approaches a defense of the environmental insensitivity, if the plans are not rethought and ameliorated in some equitable way—providing new facilities, and by curtailing the garish lights, civility as well.

2

Sincerely,
Herbert Blau
Byron W. and Alice L. Lockwood Professor
of the Humanities
Box 354330—Department of English
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-4330
Phones: (206) 5233836 (home)
(206) 5432614 (office)
Fax: (206) 6852673

Eric Friedli - Noise Pollution from Magnuson Park

From: "kim wells" <ktwells@hotmail.com>
To: <Eric.Friedli@seattle.gov>
Date: 4/18/2003 10:32 AM
Subject: Noise Pollution from Magnuson Park

Dear Mr. Friedli,

I urge you to oppose the planned Sports Field Complex at Sand Point, Magnuson Park. Eleven lighted and artificially turfed sports fields will produce a Safeco Field-esque nightmare of noise pollution in this quiet residential neighborhood every night until 11:00 p.m.

Ours is a neighborhood where you can hear the carolling from the Christmas ships, concerts that take place at the park during the day and the glorious sounds of peepers at night. The roar of team sports being played at eleven separate fields will be deafening to all of the residents surrounding the park since the topography places us in an amphitheater type arrangement. If this plan is allowed to go through, our neighborhood will forever be negatively impacted.

Please do not leave this horrid legacy for future generations.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wels
5803 43rd Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 605-2295

Add photos to your messages with MSN 8. Get 2 months FREE*.

Eric Friedli - Magnuson Park athletic facilities

From: "Alan G. Singer" <agsinger@u.washington.edu>
To: <Eric.Friedli@seattle.gov>
Date: 4/21/2003 2:05 PM
Subject: Magnuson Park athletic facilities

Dear Mr. Friedli,

I understand that you are in a position to effectively oppose the proposed expansion of playing fields in Magnuson Park. These new fields would significantly increase the noise in the park and drive away the wildlife. We should maintain the diversity of this unique urban resource so that it is useful to all.

I urge you to oppose expansion of the athletic facilities in Magnuson Park.

Alan Singer

Eric Friedli - Comments pertaining to Sandpoint Manguson Park DSEIS

From: "Pad Gallagher" <pad@passagestudio.com>
To: <eric.friedli@ci.seattle.wa.us>
Date: 4/21/2003 5:20 PM
Subject: Comments pertaining to Sandpoint Manguson Park DSEIS

Response to Sand Point Magnuson Park DSEIS:

The contents of **Table 2-1** and the predictions on page 2-10 of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) significantly call into question the methodology and accuracy of the sound-level testing that was undertaken for the DSEIS (and consequently, the FEIS).

Table 2-1 includes sound level measurements from location SLM3, a location "on Marsh Island in Seattle" that is "located near SR-520 and the Washington Park Arboretum."

There are two known facts about Marsh Island that render its inclusion in this study irrelevant and misleading:

- 1.) Marsh Island is over 2.5 *miles* away from Sand Point Magnuson Park. In fact, Marsh Island cannot even be *seen* from Sand Point Magnuson Park.

Intervening geography includes Union Bay, the University of Washington campus, Laurelhurst, and Windermere, the latter two comprising a substantial land mass that completely prevents any Marsh Island sound energy from reaching Sand Point Magnuson Park.

- 2.) Marsh Island is 200' from highway 520, a major East-West route across Lake Washington that is widely renowned for its traffic volume.

The fact that a location only 200' from a major highway suffers from high noise levels should be obvious to everyone.

Including these readings in the Sand Point Magnuson Park noise level measurements erroneously creates the impression that noise levels in and around Sand Point Magnuson Park are significantly higher than they are in reality.

The predictions on page 2-10 are significantly at odds with similar predictions published in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), published in July of 2002. In the FEIS, projected sound levels 100' from an adult baseball/softball game. These predictions included an L_{25} of 56 dBA and L_{max} of 79 dBA. In contrast, the DSEIS predicts an L_{25} of 55 dBA and L_{max} of only 73 dBA within the same distance.

These discrepancies cause all of the noise-level data and noise-level predictions to be suspect. The results that are derived from them are significantly likely to be erroneous. The inclusion of the Marsh Island noise level-data is irrelevant to the point of being misleading.

The Environmental Impact of the development of a sports field complex at Sand Point Magnuson Park on the existing and projected wildlife and habitat cannot be accurately ascertained from the data as it has been gathered, nor the predictions as they have been calculated.

A complete survey of noise levels and predicted impacts should be undertaken by independent analysis, preferably by an organization or agency that can be mutually agreed upon by both proponents and opponents of the development project.

Pad Gallagher
North Windermere Resident

Eric Friedli - Draft Supplemental EIS (Magnuson Park)

From: "Michael Fenton" <mikefwmi@attbi.com>
To: <eric.friedli@seattle.gov>
Date: 4/21/2003 11:08 PM
Subject: Draft Supplemental EIS (Magnuson Park)

Eric,

I'm extremely concerned about the potentially severely negative effects of the noise to be generated by the proposed sportsfields at Magnuson Park on the wildlife species that inhabit the park today. I strongly suggest that further study be done before any final decision to move forward with the sportsfield project is made. By the way, the SEIS doesn't make it clear who the final decision maker is. Is this something that the Mayor will decide upon independently, or will the City Council be voting on it?

1
2

Thanks for your consideration of this comment.

Michael Fenton
5749 NE 62nd Street
Seattle, WA 98115-7908

Eric Friedli - Comment on Noise Pollution/Sports Complex

From: Gail Chiarello <gailch@phys.washington.edu>
To: <Eric.Friedli@seattle.gov>
Date: 4/21/2003 4:45 PM
Subject: Comment on Noise Pollution/Sports Complex
CC: <circe@drizzle.com>

Good Afternoon Eric Friedli,

I am asking that the Parks Department Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on noise pollution at Magnuson Park proposed Sports Complex, to address the following.

Studies have shown that, in terms of the number of decibels, the human voice, especially when vocalized in the shrieks and screams of large groups of young adults or children engaged in games, sports, or playing, can exceed the noise level of fire engine or ambulance sirens. It is a piercing, ear-splitting noise which creates headaches in those exposed to it even for short periods of time. This finding was reported several decades ago and written up in the San Francisco Chronicle in the late 1970s. I do not have time this afternoon to hunt for the exact citation, but I will append it in a subsequent e-mail.

I would like the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to address the above concern specifically in terms of the effect of this decibel range on wildlife in the park.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gail Chiarello

Physics Department Box 351560
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-1560
E-mail: gailch@phys.washington.edu

Tel. 206-543-5459 FAX 685-0635

TESTIMONY COMMENTS

1
2
3 SAND POINT MAGNUSON PARK
4 DSEIS HEARING
5 TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS
6
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9
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11
12

13 April 7, 2003

14 4:30 p.m.

15 Sand Point Magnuson Park
16 7400 Sand Point Way Northeast
17 Building 406
18 Seattle, Washington
19
20

21 COPY
22
23

24 Catherine A. Decker, C.C.R.

25 Court Reporter

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1 MR. FRIEDLI: My name is Eric Friedli,
2 Director of Planning and Operations for Sand
3 Point Magnuson Park, Seattle Parks Department. I
4 want to thank you all for coming to this comment
5 hearing on the draft supplemental environmental
6 impact statement. This is a fairly technical
7 hearing on the supplemental environmental impact
8 statement that the department released two weeks
9 ago. And the subject of the SEIS is the impacts
10 of sports field facilities on wildlife.

11 In July of last year we issued the final
12 environmental impact statement that looked at the
13 potential impacts of the proposed project on all
14 aspects of the environment, including lights and
15 traffic and noise and the whole range of
16 potential environmental issues. That final
17 environmental impact statement was appealed by a
18 group by the name of "Friends of Magnuson Park."

19 There was a hearing that was held on that
20 EIS in January, and the hearing examiner issued
21 her decision at the end of February. And the
22 hearing examiner's decision was essentially that
23 most of the environmental impact statement was
24 ruled as adequate and acceptable. The Parks
25 Department was asked to or told by the hearing

1 examiner to do a supplemental environmental
2 impact statement, looking at the impacts of
3 sports field noise on wildlife.

4 So essentially what her ruling said was that
5 the department had done an adequate job of
6 looking at the potential impacts of the proposal
7 on all other aspects of the environment except
8 for the potential of sports field noise on
9 wildlife. So she told the department to go back
10 and do some additional analysis on that topic.

11 So we've completed the draft of that
12 analysis, and we're taking comments on the
13 analytical work that has been completed. We'll
14 have the hearing tonight and take the oral
15 comments. The opportunity for written comments
16 or comments over the phone is open until April
17 21st. At that time we'll end the comment period,
18 and we'll then prepare a final supplemental
19 environmental impact statement, which we expect
20 to issue at the first part of May.

21 So any comments tonight should pertain to
22 the issue at hand, which is the impact of sports
23 field noise on wildlife. You're welcome to make
24 comments on any part of the proposal, but we're
25 specifically looking for comments on the

1 supplemental environmental impact statement, and
2 any comments on that we'll respond to in the
3 final documents issued in the first part of May.

4 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: What's the definition
5 of wildlife? Are humans considered part of
6 wildlife or not?

7 MR. FRIEDLI: Not in this --

8 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Well, what is the
9 definition? I mean, if you look in the
10 dictionary, would humans be considered wildlife
11 or not?

12 MR. FRIEDLI: Not for the purpose of this
13 analysis.

14 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: No. What is the
15 definition? Because is wildlife wildlife?

16 MR. FRIEDLI: I would assume nonhuman life
17 that exists in the park.

18 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Well, you might want
19 to look that up.

20 MR. FRIEDLI: We'll do that, and I hope
21 you'll make that part of your formal comments
22 when you get a chance to speak.

23 After we complete the environmental review
24 process, then there will be a final proposal that
25 is developed by the department and the mayor, and

1 some parts of it will be implemented by the Parks
2 Department, some parts of it will be implemented
3 through the mayor's office, and the bulk of it
4 will be approved by the city council. And I
5 don't have a schedule for when that would likely
6 happen; we haven't developed that follow-up
7 schedule.

8 So with that introduction, and -- this isn't
9 a forum for responding to questions. If you have
10 a question, we will note the question and then
11 respond to it, again, in the final environmental
12 impact statement. So if you want to speak, be
13 sure you've signed in. I'll call a couple names.
14 So the first name will need to come up and we'll
15 have three minutes for you to make your
16 presentation. If you have written comments, you
17 can hand them in at the end or the beginning of
18 your comments, whichever your preference is. And
19 so we'll get started.

20 So the first person is Vance Thompson, and
21 Katie Lamberts will be the second. Vance
22 Thompson?

23 Is Katie Lamberts here? Chas Campbell? I
24 suspect some of them are outside, and I think she
25 went to get them. Patrick Friel? Toivo

1 Rovainen? Go ahead.

2 MR. ROVAINEN: You've made clear that most
3 of the topics I'd like to ask you about will not
4 be covered at this meeting, so I'll submit a
5 written set of questions later. Thank you, very
6 much.

7 MR. FRIEDLI: Thank you. Henry Butler?

8 MR. BUTLER: Well, I signed in to be here,
9 but I didn't know this was the narrow context of
10 wildlife. I thought more pertaining to us.

11 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. Phillip Wagenaar?

12
13 PHILLIP WAGENAAR

T1

14
15 I wasn't prepared to say a word, except I
16 have questions about this whole deal. Because I
17 thought we were living in a democracy where
18 people -- the elected government makes decision
19 that the people want. Apparently this isn't so.
20 This is similar to our government in Washington,
21 D.C., which makes decisions that people don't
22 want.

23 Where does the authority come from to
24 1 | install those lights? Who makes the decision for
25 | that even though -- even when most of the people

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that live here are against it? Could you answer that question. May not be pertaining to wildlife unless we humans are also wildlife. I'd like an answer to that question.

MR. FRIEDLI: We're here to accept comments on the supplemental environmental impact statement.

MR. WAGENAAR: That's all you want to do?

MR. FRIEDLI: That's all we're here to do this evening. We'll take your comments and respond in the final.

MR. WAGENAAR: And when is the final?

MR. FRIEDLI: Early May.

MR. WAGENAARR: Well, I won't be here then. Is somebody going to be here and ask the same question? Is somebody in agreement with me or not? Raise your hands if you are in agreement with me then. This is a decision that is -- this is a decision that's imposed upon us by the government whether we want it or not. This has been the practice in the past so many times. The government of Washington, D.C., has done it. We voted against the stadium, and then the legislature decided, well, we're going to have a stadium anyway, even though we as voters who

1 voted in our representatives were against it.

2 So I think that we all should stand up and
3 fight for our rights and not let us be put down
4 by legislators. Thank you. I have spoken.

5 MR. FRIEDL: So we will go back to the top
6 of the list. Vance Thompson and then Katie
7 Lambert?

8
9 VANCE THOMPSON

T2

10
11 I'll keep my comments short and to the issue
12 of noise. I think it's well known what our
13 position is on the lights and the associated time
14 of hours of the lights, which will create more
15 noise for the habitat.

16 The draft supplemental EIS states that, "The
17 potential changes in bird density from sports
18 field noise could be masked or offset by improved
19 function of habitats in the park with the
20 proposed action." The speculation is an insult
21 to Seattle's Wildlife Stewardship Committee.
22 There is no basis for it. There is no funding
23 identified for the wetlands' restoration. There
24 is ample evidence indicating that "restored wet-
25 lands" now subject to light and noise will not be

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CONT

equivalent to existing conditions.

2 MR. FRIEDLI: Patrick Friel and then
3 Robin Hesch.

4 MR. FRIEL: I'll submit my comments in
5 writing.

6 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. Donald or Robin Hesch?

7
8 DONALD HESCH

T3

9
10 I came basically for information, but in
11 looking at this map I'm confused. This is the
12 existing boat launch ramp; is that correct?

13 MR FRIEDLI: Yes.

14 MR. HESCH: And is this the parking for it?
15 Is this going to come down into the present
16 parking area for the boat launch ramp? Because
17 that's all blacktop. Well, then this is the
18 parking area for the boat launch ramp.

19 MR. FRIEDL: No. That's south of 65th.

20 MR. HESCH: Okay. I wasn't going to stay
21 anything except that I was reminded of something.
22 We've lived in this neighborhood down on the
23 other side -- on the south side of the fence.
24 When we first moved here, there used to be a
25 species of pheasant called the Sand Point

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Pheasant. It was a subspecies. And with all of the development that's gone on, those pheasants have disappeared. And I think that whatever happens, you're going to see more and more wildlife disappear. That's my only comment. I miss seeing those Sand Point pheasants, and I think we're going -- oh, and the quail used to be down here a lot. There are no more quail. Thank you.

MR. FRIEDL: Bodel Bak Jones?

BODEL BAK JONES

T4

I was around for the first round and didn't expect to have another time that would be so painful as the first one. I have a lot of questions. I have a question though about what about traffic. Have you done a study on it? In that case, have you been fair about it and not done it in off times like you did last time?

1
MR. FRIEDL: Yeah. The traffic analysis was in the environmental impact statement that was released last July.

MS. JONES: And it was approved?

MR. FRIEDL: It's not in the -- the FEIS

1 does not get approved. It's just a document that
2 the decision makers will use when they --

3 MS. JONES: It does affect us. I'd like you
4 to know, for instance, that we're going to have a
5 terrible problem with traffic around here. How
6 many people do you think that every night is
7 going to come and play on those ball fields? The
8 neighbors are not being able to use it, and
9 they're going to stay open until eleven o'clock
10 at night, having lights shining into our
11 bedrooms. I think that this is really bad.

12 And I think also the treatment that we have
13 had from your offices are really, really bad.
14 You are not working for us, but we're paying you;
15 and we would like to get something for our money.
16 I have lived here for 40 years and I, too, think
17 I have some rights to say what's going to happen
18 down here. Thank you.

19 MR. FRIEDLI: Diane Diluck and then Grace
20 Jones.

21 MS. DILUCK: We don't want to talk. We
22 just -- he told us to sign in, so we just signed
23 in. We're listening.

24 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. Larry Rogovoy?
25

LARRY ROGOVOY

T5

1
2
3 My name is Larry Rogovoy, and I'm a newly-
4 arrived member of this community. But as I
5 understand the impact statement, it was to create
6 lighting that will be beyond the scope of what we
7 might consider a normal situation. So my
8 comments would simply be, has a committee really
9 evaluated what the impact will be on the
10 community in terms of the lighting, in terms of
11 its impact on the traffic, in terms of the impact
12 for the well-being of the community?

13 One other item would be the people who live
14 in the transient housing, whether or not they
15 will be impacted by this lighted activity at
16 night. They have a right to peace and quiet just
17 as all of us do, and I would say that that I
18 think is an overriding consideration in whether
19 or not the fields should be lighted at night.

20 The last question I would ask is whether or
21 not the public would have access to the 11 play
22 fields, or whether or not we're not being told
23 the accurate story as to who will use these
24 soccer fields or play fields and what priorities
25 there are. Those are my comments. Thank you.

1 MR. FRIEDLI: Thank you. Linda Deep and
2 then Mary Lee? Molly and David Hashimoto?

3 MS. HASHIMOTO: We're submitting our
4 comments written.

5 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Could you check to
6 determine whether or not that microphone is in
7 fact turned on because it made no difference when
8 the last two people used it.

9 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. Peter Dahl and Bob
10 Lucas.

11
12 PETER DAHL

T6

13
14 People living nearby needn't be bashful about
15 not wanting this. Certainly the mayor was not
16 bashful about the curtailment of cell phone
17 towers in his neighborhood in West Seattle.

18 The issue of noise, the subject here, we've
19 been here now three times with no effect, zero
20 effect from our city government here. But on
21 this particular day we talk about noise. We pay
22 our tax dollars for stewardship of these lands,
23 and that stewardship is represented in some sense
24 by this SDEIS that admits that, "Sound levels
25 associated with sports field activities as a

1 result of this plan will exceed sound levels
2 identified in research as resulting in reduced
3 breeding bird density."

4 Then it goes on to discount that finding on
5 the false basis that noise associated with sports
6 field activity cannot be equated with noise
7 associated with traffic. Well, anybody who has
8 studied noise, and I mean anybody who has studied
9 noise, would know that these noise levels are
10 measured in the A-weighted quantity known as a
11 dBA. And that sound level is agnostic as to what
12 went into it, whether it's traffic noise or
13 anything. No study in community noise or
14 environmental noise distinguishes the type of
15 noise that enters into the A-weighted
16 measurement.

17 Parks misleads the decision makers and the
18 public on the issue of stewardship of the present
19 and future breeding populations of songbirds in
20 Sand Point Magnuson Park. These populations will
21 be environmentally impacted from the high noise
22 levels emitted from the adjacent sports fields.
23 And we that that impact be recognized and
24 documented. You can be sure that we will demand
25 that.

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CONT

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1 The DEIS also states that "Potential changes
2 in the bird density from the sports field noise
3 could be masked or offset by improved function in
4 habitat in the park with the proposed action."

5 That's a quote from the document. Misspeculation
6 it is an insult to the Seattle's Wildlife
7 Stewardship Community that's taken so much time
8 to document the songbird species in this area.

9 There's ample evidence to indicate that the
10 restored wetlands now subject to lights and noise
11 would not be equivalent to the existing
12 conditions, and there is no funding identified
13 for the wetlands restoration.

14 Also the SDEIS states that "The predominate
15 sources of existing noise within the wildlife
16 habitat areas include traffic on Sand Point Way."
17 The intent of this statement is to lead decision
18 makers and the public to believe that existing
19 conditions are already contaminated by traffic
20 noise. Well, that's not true. If you look in
21 the Appendix E of the FEIS produced last
22 summer --

23 MR. BERGSRUUD: Excuse me. Your three
24 minutes is up.

25 MR. DAHL: Okay, well, I'll send the rest of

1 the comments in my public statement.

2 MR. FRIEDLI: Bob Lucas and Joy --

3 MR. LUCAS: You can have my three minutes.

4 MR. DAHL: Regarding the predominate sources
5 of noise within the wildlife habitat area, it
6 states, "Predominate sources of existing noise
7 within the wildlife habitat area include traffic
8 on Sand Point Way." The intent of this statement
9 is to lead decision makers and you, the public,
10 to believe that existing conditions are already
11 contaminated by vehicle noise.

12 If you look -- that that statement is wholly
13 contradicted by the sound level data recorded on
14 the western boundary of the sports field near the
15 Sand Point Community Housing Association site and
16 documented in Appendix E of the SEIS, published
17 last summer. These data show a very quiescent
18 noise environment during the morning and evening
19 commute on Sand Point Way. It's very quiet, and
20 that noise level is, by the way, a very valuable
21 health benefit to those people.

22 And furthermore, it shows an increase in
23 noise level that is highly correlated with the
24 onset of organized sports field activity on those
25 fields adjacent to that building where those

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CONT

1 measurements were made.

2 Thus the wetlands being located some 500
3 feet further to the east of Sand Point Way
4 compared to the Sand Point Community Housing
5 Association site are in fact well-endowed with a
6 quiescent noise environment conducive to breeding
7 populations of songbirds.

8 Furthermore, the wetlands, just as the
9 people who live in the Sand Point Community
10 Housing Association, will be subjected to
11 artificially high noise levels that are sustained
12 until 11:00 p.m. We demand that these facts and
13 their consequences be explicitly recognized and
14 documented for decision makers and the public.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. FRIEDLI: Thank you. Joyce Teshima and
17 then Marge Sampson.

18 MS. TESHIMA: I will submit mine in writing.

19 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. Marge Sampson?

20
21 MARGE SAMPSON

T7

22
23 The point of this, in terms of the focus of
24 this, is on the noise and the effect of the noise
25 on the wetlands. To me this is completely absurd

1 to discuss because are there animals all over
2 downtown Seattle? Do you think they like noise?
3 Do you think they like cars and people and people
4 screaming and whistles? They are not in those
5 places. And if they go away they're not going to
6 come back.

7 I used to live in northwest Seattle. All we
8 have were grackles -- or whatever, I forget. I'm
9 CONT 1 from the East Coast, so I don't know what they
10 are. But that's all we had. Here there's all
11 kinds of birds. And to actually destroy the wet-
12 lands, to keep lights on at night, it's just
13 absolutely unbelievable to me in that this is
14 called balanced. It's only balanced if somebody
15 is blind. Thank you.

16 MR. FRIEDLI: Peggy Printz and then David
17 White.

18
19 - PEGGY PRINTZ

T8

20
21 I may be a human owl, but I actually saw a
22 real owl just outside the boundary of the park
23 two weeks ago on the Burke Gilman trail. There
24 still are owls there, and I'm here to try to make
25 1 | sure that they stay there. Please keep the

1 wetlands here so that the critters, like myself,
2 can live here like the owl that I'm supposed to
3 be. We want to keep the birds here. We don't
4 want empty promises of restoring wetlands. We
5 want to keep the ones we've got.

6
CONT

Also we want to keep -- the remaining areas
7 that we have, we would like to keep safe for
8 birds so that creatures like this will not have
9 to wear head phones. This is what they will have
10 to do if you go ahead with your project. Thank
11 you.

12 MR. FRIEDLI: David White and then Victoria
13 Simmons

14
15 DAVID WHITE

T9

16
17 I for one can hardly believe that we've
18 having to be here to discuss this. To me, the
19 consequences of the plan are so obvious as to
20 be -- somebody earlier said, you know, obvious to
21 anybody who hasn't simply blinded themselves to
22 the truth. To imagine that we could go and make
23 the kinds of changes that we're talking about
24 here will not impact birds is absurd.

25 1 | The birds get on what are the play fields

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now, they dig up worms, they carry on their daily activities. They're not going to be able to do that when there's light shining on them until eleven o'clock at night. They're not going to be able to do that through artificial turf if that should be installed. They're not going to do it when there is endless human impact on the property. That just seems obvious to me.

Aside from that, just the prospect in this day and age of us having to keep coming down here to try and protect Magnuson Park from incroachments one after another, again, just seems endured to me. I don't understand how we could even get this far.

2

Considering the state of the economy, where's the money going to come for the supposed swapping or acquisition or development of new wetlands. Where's the economic sense in this time where people like me are out of work and have been out of work for a year. When people -- you know, the unemployment rate is so high, when our tax revenues are so far below where they were expected to be, where is the economic sense in destroying this wetland and then trying to acquire funds to build a new artificial wetland

1 somewhere else. This is just lunacy.

2 And I hope there will be changes made to
3 reflect the reality of the situation in the EIS
4 plan instead of just creating an EIS plan that
5 makes this a foregone conclusion. Thank you.

6 MR. FRIEDLI: Victoria and then Carl Stewart

8 VICTORIA SIMMONS

T10

9
10 I'm Victoria. I agree completely with David
11 and many of the other people. I think it's
12 absurd that we're here even discussing this. I
13 also feel that it's a foregone conclusion
14 basically that what I've seen over the years is
15 that the city decides what it's going to do, and
16 it just forces it on us whether we like it or
17 not. And we're the residents here and we just
18 have to put up with it.

19 We have gone through this with the homeless
20 housing, we've gone through it time and time
21 again, and now people are trying to tell us that
22 having lights like Safeco Field or 60 percent the
23 equivalent are not going to bother anybody.

24 That's ridiculous. And that the sound isn't
25 going to carry all over the place.

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CONT

1 Even now you can be down at Magnuson Park
2 and hear the buses going up 65th -- you can hear
3 it from down at Magnuson Park going up 65th. You
4 think that a big play field and all the activity
5 associated with it is not going to affect people
6 until eleven o'clock at night, not to mention the
7 traffic and everything else that goes along with
8 it, is ridiculous. It's an insult to the
9 intelligence of the people who worked hard to buy
10 property and wanted to live in a nice place and
11 want to have wetlands and try to preserve
12 whatever is left of the remaining wild spaces
13 that we may have.

4

14 The man who talked about the pheasants -- I
15 remember those pheasants too. I picked up the
16 corpse of the last female that had been run down
17 by a car and buried it in our backyard. That was
18 about four years ago. I have seen the declining
19 population. Every day I go down to Magnuson
20 Park. I've seen the declining population in even
21 the bird's. All we're getting is pigeons and
22 crows because they are the only ones who can
23 survive in this kind of environment. And for you
24 all to tell us that it's not going to make a
25 difference is an insult to our intelligence.

1 I think the developers run this city and
2 they just decide whatever they want to do and
3 shove it down our throats. And we are all here
4 to tell you that this isn't what we want. We
5 don't want lights on until eleven o'clock. Even
6 people over in Kirkland don't want it.

7 How many minutes do I have left? One.
8 Okay. I want you to know that we are not happy
9 about this, and we are not going to take it
10 sitting down. I think that, you know, as much as
11 we can do to show you, to come out here during a
12 workday and tell you this, whether you are
13 listening or not, we don't want this development
14 here.

15 Why can't it be spread out so that people go
16 play soccer in all their respective areas. Why
17 does it all have to be concentrated right here,
18 right up our noses, and all the associated
19 traffic? We put up with plenty with all the
20 changed bus routes and everything, and some of us
21 like to go to bed before eleven o'clock at night.
22 Okay. Thank you, very much.

23 MR. FRIEDLI: Carol Stewart and then Maggie
24 Kitch.
25

CAROL STEWART

T11

1
2
3 Thank you. I actually didn't come so
4 prepared. And I'm sorry I wasn't here at the
5 beginning. Who am I speaking with?

6 MR. FRIEDLI: I'm Eric Friedli, the Director
7 of Sand Point Magnuson Park, Seattle Parks
8 Department.

9 MS. STEWART: Okay. Yes, I agree with what
10 Victoria said and in the way she said it. I
11 appreciate how frustrated she is. And I feel the
12 same.

13 I have often wondered why would you bring
14 the noise and light pollution down here? Why not
15 put those fields where there already is noise and
16 light pollution downtown. At least a parking lot
17 downtown. There's empty warehouses downtown.
18 It's already there.

19 1 And I was already thinking how it reminds me
20 of billboards. Do you remember when billboards
21 used to be along the highway and there was just
22 one after the other? Well, people decided that
23 we don't want to see billboards anymore, we want
24 to see the natural landscape. And I submit that
25 this is in the same vein, that noise and light

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pollution are the same as we used to treat
billboards in that we're making a conscious
decision not to have them in certain places. So
let's keep Magnuson Park free of that. Thank
you, very much.

MR. FRIEDLI: Maggie Kitch and then Arden
Forey.

MAGGIE KITCH

T12

Hi. I'm Maggie Kitch, and I got a little
emotional because somebody said they against the
homeless housing/traditional housing. Families,
that means women and children, fathers and
children, and single housing. That means me. I
was evicted from a house. I have a mental
illness -- excuse me. And, well, I was evicted
because I went off my medicine, so I ended up in
a shelter downtown. Man that's really bad.
Traffic, ambulances, police sirens.

But I found this place -- birds, a place
where you could start jogging and go down to the
lake. Just really neat things -- you can get
involved with the community. I found jazzercise
where I could be a class manager. But not only

1 that. You could start gardening out here, could
2 see the birds. But it's open, it's the wetlands.

3 And also when I moved in here I met this
4 security guard who's no longer here. I guess
5 things changed.

6 I've got two minutes? I know this because I
7 watch the Seattle channel. Am I going to be on?

8 I'm saying that he told me that where that
9 old PX was, they're going to take that down and
10 make that another big pond. And the whole place
11 is going to be just natural wetlands.

12 But my apartment is right where the fields
13 are and stuff. And, you know, as it gets kind of
14 noisy, that's true. And I can't imagine
15 bleachers and noise and lights -- and sometimes
16 they start blowing those fog horns and stuff.

17 I'm leaving in a year. I'm going to get an
18 apartment because that's the master plan. But
19 there are a lot of mentally ill people there.
20 We're good people -- some of us aren't, but
21 they're weeded out. We have a screening program.
22 We deserve a chance.

23 And you know the birds that I see out there
24 1 when I jog, the blue jays, the wildlife deserve a
25 chance too. So Seattle, give us a chance and

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maybe think about the turfs and the lights and all that money you're putting into that for people who can afford sports.

Now, I watch Seattle channel and I know what happened last year with the budget. All those good people complained. It is a money issue. But it's also an environmental issue. And the countdown is 30 seconds. And I'll turn over my 30 seconds to your thoughts about me.

ARDEN FOREY

T13

I'm Arden Forey, and I've lived around here for 35 years. And I've seen the process by which these kind of projects have been put together over the years go down the tubes catastrophically and particularly in the last few years.

And the plan for this athletic industry patch out here has not gone through a rigorous planning process by which criteria and data and decision mechanisms have been documented and given to the public. The Parks Department is derelict in it's handling of the planning process for this whole thing. It's part of a process that's been maturing throughout the city, but

1 it's hitting us in the face. And we're telling
2 you we're holding you accountable for developing
3 a plan with criteria and data and shown to the
4 public ahead of time.

5 Two minutes. I'm going to tell you the same
6 thing again. Your process is defective, and as a
7 result of this hearing I want to see a planning
8 document that has real data backed up by experts
9 who have compared other athletic sites -- how
10 does this compare with other sites in the county,
11 a whole variety of things. And what criteria do
12 you have? Characteristics of this place far
13 exceed that of any other site in the whole
14 county, and that's been recognized and said by
15 other people. I'm saying that if you don't show
16 us the data, we're going to raise Cain and see
17 that you're accountable for the planning of this
18 process. Amen.

19 MR. FRIEDLI: Lynn Ferguson and then Eric
20 Versuh

21
22 LYNN FERGUSON

T14

23
24 My name is Lynn Ferguson. I live several
25 blocks from the park, and I'm chair of a group

1 called MESA. I'm here to present the official
2 position of MESA, which is the Magnuson
3 Environmental Stewardship Alliance. We're a
4 group of environmentalists, neighbors, members of
5 Seattle Audubon, and the Washington Native Plant
6 Society.

7 MESA has worked with the Parks Department
8 for approximately ten years, leading work parties
9 to improve the native habitat and to teach
10 stewardship. We are currently leading
11 approximately six work parties a month on
12 Promontory Point of the community garden, and
13 it's a native plant/butterfly garden. We have
14 logged thousands of volunteer hours at this park
15 and planted thousands of native plants in an
16 effort to beautify the park, add to its
17 environmental education value, and for plant and
18 animal diversity.

19 We are supportive of a balanced mixed-use
20 plan for the park and work to get money for its
21 development through the pro-parks process.

22 1 We have become convinced, however, that the
23 current plan is not balanced. The planned
24 regional all-weather sports complex will
25 overwhelm and destroy its sensitive wetland

1 neighbor, declared "critical wildlife habitat" by
2 Seattle ordinance. We favored synthetic turf
3 because it needed less fertilizer and pesticides,
4 and this would be gentler on the adjoining wet
5 lands. It also provides twice the playing time
6 for field sports, so we thought fewer fields
7 would be needed.

8 Since it was expensive turf, apparently,
9 they have to be lit. Twice the daylight hours
10 was not enough. Four grass fields must be
11 designed to configure three ways, essentially
12 adding space for two more fields. The fields,
13 though limited in number, must be maximum in
14 size. So all soccer fields are larger than
15 American football fields. The international
16 standard can hold two normal games. Nearly a
17 thousand players would be active on the fields at
18 one time. MESA feels this overkill will kill the
19 balance in the park.

20 This SFEIS is to provide the mayor and the
21 city council with a specific set of impacts to
22 wildlife that may occur from this huge increase
23 in ball field play and the associated
24 construction.

25 Section 2.21 states that high sound affects

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CONT

1 bats, mid-level sound affects birds and humans
2 and larger mammals, and low sound affects frogs
3 and smaller mammals. That's pretty much
4 everything.

5 Section 2.2 lists scientifically proven
6 consequences of noise, disruption of the ability
7 to communicate, interference with behavior
8 patterns, mating, ability to get adequate food,
9 cover, water, increased heart rate, hearing loss,
10 noise-induced stress. Nests left by parents of
11 young perish from cold and predators.

12 The report goes on to state that the studies
13 done have involved different situations, but
14 logically concludes the more tolerant species
15 will stay and the others will leave. No species
16 are named, which will stay and which will leave.
17 It would be safe to venture that crows,
18 starlings, pigeons, and English sparrows will
19 stay. How many other of the approximately 200
20 species listed in the SFEIS will stay is in
21 doubt. I took of list of special concern in the
22 United States taken from Birdweb.

23 MR. FRIEDL: Times up.

24 MS. FERGUSON: Okay, well, just basically,
25 you know, there are 25 of those birds that

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CONT

actually appear at Magnuson Park that are listed in your SEIS, and I'm sure those will go. And the impacts on mammals -- you didn't list any mammals being down here. Well, I'm a mammal.

3

And aside from that, we also have raccoons, opossums, muskrats, coyotes, and I think mountain beaver are probably down here, too.

4

Finally, Magnuson is the last great open space in the city located on Lake Washington. It's an incredible asset to our quality of life and the wildlife around us. The city is at a crossroads with this park and must make a choice -- a great open park of balanced uses or an all-weather regional sports complex in the heart of a residential neighborhood. Soccer and baseball players don't want to have to drive out of the city to have a regional tournament at night. Environmentalists and neighbors don't want to have to leave the city to teach their children and grandchildren about nature and to experience its peace. To MESA the choice is a no-brainer: Magnuson must stay a park for all.

MR. FRIEDLI: Eric Versuh

ERIC VERSUH

T15

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3 So my name is Eric Versuh. I'm a neighbor.
4 As I'm listening and looking at the plan here, I
5 have a couple of concerns. Obviously a lot of
6 the assumptions about the wetlands here being
7 able to be restored, and so being a good habitat,
8 assume that the birds won't leave during the
9 construction.

10 But in my field, and that's project
11 management, we have to look at something from
12 beginning to end. Right now what we're seeing
13 here is that the end -- this is the end, but it's
14 not funded right now. The only thing that's
15 funded is the beginning. So the mess is funded.
16 We've got a picture of the mess out here out the
17 window. You've got a picture of a big tractor
18 out there that they're going to have to use to
19 move the dirt around. That's what's going to go
20 on for a while. And until the thing is done, it
21 won't look like this.

22 My concern is that in the project world we
23 should be putting first things first. If we are
24 really going to go towards this, let's build the
25 wetland first. Have a place for those little

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birds to migrate to and move to because once they leave, who's to say they're going to come back. Where are they going to go? They're not just going to hang out in Windemere for a little while and then come back.

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And my second concern is as an owner, which is what I am, as a city taxpayer I'm an owner. My second concern is that we have an unfunded project. A very small portion of this seems to be funded with known funds. So what will that leave me? It will leave me a partially developed park, and I don't know where the rest of the money is going to come from. And as an individual or as a businessman, that would be a bad choice. And as a taxpayer I'm particularly concerned about it. Thank you.

17 MR. FRIEDLI: Jeanette Williams?
18

19 JEANETTE WILLIAMS

T16

20
21 Mine is really short. I'm Jeanette
22 Williams. I chair the Sand Point Community
23 Liaison Committee, and I'm here to very briefly
24 make some comments. I restricted mine as per
25 instructions to the sports fields themselves. So

1 I'm speaking about the unnatural grass sports
2 fields improvement.

3 I do note that the construction will start
4 in late summer to lessen noise impacts during the
5 nesting season. However, we do strongly
6 recommend that there be careful monitoring of the
7 noise levels and other potential disruptive
8 occurrences and that records be kept of the
9 effects upon wildlife within the adjacent
10 habitat, both positive and negative. The purpose
11 1 would be to provide guidance for future
12 department work within or adjacent to sensitive
13 habitat areas. And volunteers could be found to
14 assist in monitoring results. I would like to
15 stress this very much because it's important to
16 the future, also.

17 Further we recommend that ten foot deep
18 buffer strips with native plantings be installed
19 2 around the edges of the natural grass sports
20 fields. Such a buffer would be of real
21 assistance to mitigate sports event noise and
22 protect wildlife from within habitat areas.

23 Many of us attending the hearing today come
24 to let the department know that we still care
25 very much as to what is happening to our own

1 Magnuson Park, and we have been, of course,
2 sponsors of this starting back in 1970. We hear
3 the constant complaint from across our city, and
4 this is the same as ours: Why bother to talk to
5 the Parks Department? They do not listen to us,
6 to the people from the communities. And I'm very
7 sad to say that, but I hear that appraisal every
8 day that I'm out in the communities.

9 So let us bring the message again to the
10 department, that we hope you will listen and
11 assure us that there will be a change. We would
12 appreciate it.

13 And as a reminder, the life we seek to
14 protect within its own natural habitat, like
15 humans, breathes, eats, reproduces, feels pain,
16 and has an intelligence of its own. It is
17 important that we protect, not destroy it.

18 MR. FRIEDLI: That was the last person that
19 signed up to speak. So until someone comes in to
20 speak, we will wait, I guess.

21 [A brief break was taken.]

22 MR. FRIEDLI: If we could have people take
23 their seats, we do have some other speakers.
24 Sara Cooper?

SARA COOPER

T17

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2
3 Hello. My name is Sara Cooper. I'm a
4 neighbor, and I'm here as mostly a citizen of
5 Seattle because I'm very concerned about the fact
6 that this park, which as somebody has said is one
7 of the last undeveloped parks on the Lake
8 Washington waterfront. It's being considered for
9 a project which really should go into an
10 industrial area.

11 I'm wondering why the Parks Department
12 people here and the city have not done an
13 alternative site study, which people, of course,
14 realize is a study of other areas in the city of
15 Seattle which could accommodate all or part of
16 this soccer field complex which is being
17 considered. Can you answer that, please.

18 MR. FRIEDLI: No, ma'am.

19 MS. COOPER: When will you be able to answer
20 these questions for us?

21 MR. FRIEDLI: There will be a process --
22 once the EIS is completed then we will have
23 probably through the city council process
24 additional public --

25 MS. COOPER: Okay. So this is going before

1 the city council; is that the truth?

2 MR. FRIEDLI: Yes.

3 MS. COOPER: Not just the mayor?

4 MR. FRIEDLI: The mayor has the authority to
5 make some of the decisions, the council has the
6 requirement to make others.

7 MS. COOPER: Okay, folks, we have our work
8 cut out for us. We're going to be talking to all
9 the city council members, especially the ones
10 that are going up for re-election.

11 I want to know if there is some hidden
12 reason why people feel that Magnuson Park has to
13 be the place for this. There are many, many
14 other places in Seattle that could accommodate
15 part or all of these soccer fields. So these are
16 some questions that we have like to have
17 answered. Thank you.

18 MR. FRIEDLI: Ellen Juhl?

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ELLEN JUHL

T18

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Well, I'm speaking just from a selfish view
for myself because we bought property up on the
hill and have this wonderful, wonderful view, and
we pay horrendous property taxes which go up year

1 after year. And we just feel that that's an
2 infringement to have those lights shining over
3 that lake 24 hours a day. At least turn them off
4 at dusk, okay? That's all I have to say.

5 MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else? Please, if you
6 could give your name

7
8 MICHAEL CALLAHAN

T19

9
10 My name is Michael Callahan. I'm a neighbor
11 of Magnuson Park. And I really just had a
12 question for the record. I've had sons in
13 various athletic programs here in the city and
14 the public schools, and there is a number of
15 schools in the city, including Roosevelt High
16 School, Eckstein, and others that badly need
17 lighted fields with artificial turf. And I was
18 just wondering whether that had been considered.

19 Because these are sites that -- not only
20 would they welcome it, but it's kind of
21 embarrassing for our city and for our kids here
22 that they don't have access to those facilities.
23 So I'm wondering, if we have funding for this,
24 why is it that we can't get these types of
25 facilities in our schools? Thank you.

1 MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else? Please give your
2 name.

4 DIANA KINCAID

T20

6 Diana Kincaid, and I live in the
7 neighborhood right up here on Aviation Heights.
8 And I'm concerned because my husband and I just
9 recently moved into this neighborhood. And we
10 were drawn to it because of the natural beauty,
11 the care that the residents around here take of
12 their properties, and not only the property but
13 just the incredible richness of the birds that we
14 have. And it's just a beautiful location from
15 that standpoint. But also, Magnuson Park has
16 this great potential for being partially natural,
17 and there's room for a lot of diverse use.

18 This plan you have is so overwhelming to the
19 impact of Magnuson Park, that it will no longer
20 have that natural setting that so many of us
21 enjoy here. And we're already cut off in terms
22 of our use of the park and where NOAA is no
23 longer available to us. So those of us who are
24 active, who walk or run, no longer have that, the
25 sculptures available or a lot of the natural

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setting that we had before. And this just destroys the whole effect of the park.

I know, before I lived in Ballard, and we had one ball field with high intensity lights there. And the impact of that light on a our neighborhood was -- it was amazing. So this is just so much worse. Anyway, thank you.

MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else who would like to speak?

ROBERT HUNT

T21

My name is Robert Hunt. I have lived in this area for 50 years and have watched the evolution of the site in this neighborhood. I would ask you who are responsible for the supervision of this unique area not to just think of today but think of the future. Look ahead 10, 15, 20 years and think of Seattle and the place of this park in our community. This is a unique area. Where in the United States could you find anything equal?

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It's obscene to think that you will decimate the beauty of this area with another Safeco Field, shall we say, in this pristine, remarkable

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site. Think of the legacy to Seattle, not just your responsibility today. Think of the future, think of the generations and what Seattle -- what this place means to our community. It's a unique, absolutely desirable area which you must safeguard for the future.

DENNIS MARTYNOWYCH

T22

Hi. My name is Dennis Martynowych and I'm here today as a neighbor. We live up the hill. And my comments are very brief.

I wanted to acknowledge that there is some exciting thinking about the native habitat and the restoration of the site, and I do have mixed feelings about the lighting, and I want to recommend that the city phase it in, if there is this much opposition and confusion about how bright it's going to be. I suggest that you can always add later, but it's impossible to take away once it's there.

And so perhaps a compromise that everybody would feel good about, would be to light a third of what's now, and if after a couple of years it is not a problem you can always add more. Again,

1 1 | it's difficult to take it away once it's there.
CONT

2 MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else?

4 DOUG ANCONA

T23

6 My name is Doug Ancona. I'm vice president
7 for Friends of Magnuson Park. We will be
8 submitting for the record extensive written
9 comments that analyze the deficiencies that we
10 believe exist in the supplemental impact
11 statement. We'll be submitting comprehensive
12 written comments on what we believe are the
13 inadequacies in the analysis of the noise impacts
14 on wildlife.

15 I know other speakers have preceded me, but
16 I hope they have stressed that there are several
17 hundred species of wildlife, and birds
18 particularly, in this park that don't exist
19 anywhere else in the city of Seattle. I think
20 1 | the impact statement acknowledges that those
21 species will "move along". Where they'll move,
22 that they don't already have access to, I don't
23 know. It may be that they will depart the Puget
24 Sound area.

25 With respect to one of the prior speaker's

1 comments, I think city statistics acknowledge
2 that the useful life of all lighted fields in the
3 city of Seattle has been exceeded. In other
4 words, most of the lighted fields in the city of
5 Seattle are in dire need of upgrade or
6 2 renovation. The capital costs of this particular
7 project at Sand Point far exceeds what it will
8 take to improve all of the fields in the city of
9 Seattle for the enjoyment of all sports
10 participants who care to play, regardless of the
11 geographic location.

12 I won't go into lights because we've already
13 heard enough about lights. We have a little
14 litigation going right now with respect to that.

15 Speaking about litigation, I want to go on
16 record as indicating that Friends of Magnuson
17 Park will pursue the efforts to curtail the
18 intensity of the lighting, the impacts of the
19 noise, and all of the other environmental impacts
20 that have been noted, both in this impact
21 statement as well as the prior impact statement,
22 until more reasoned heads have prevailed, be they
23 within the the Seattle Parks Department, the
24 office of the mayor, or the city council. Thank
25 you.

PAT GALLAGHER

T24

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3 My name is Pat Gallagher. I'm a local
4 resident, I live just south of Magnuson Park. I
5 wish to address two areas of the draft
6 supplemental environmental impact statement which
7 I feel are factually deficient. In Table 1-1, the
8 predicted noise level peaks are from 61 to 73
9 dBA, whereas in the final EIS those same
10 predicted peaks were between 68 and 79 dBA.

11 Additionally, in Table 2-1 you've got sound
12 level measurements from an area on Marsh Island,
13 which is nowhere near Sand Point Magnuson Park.
14 In fact, it's at the arboretum which is several
15 miles away from here.

16 I recommend that those be stricken from this
17 record as they have no bearing on the local sound
18 measurements and in fact are misleading to the
19 reader. Thank you.

20 MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else that would like to
21 speak?

MARK ROLLER

T25

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3 My name is Mark Roller, R-o-l-l-e-r, and
4 we've been residents of this area for over 20
5 years. I would like to object to the scope of
6 this project, and I would like to sort of echo
7 the statements of the gentleman, who left, when
8 he spoke about think of what the legacy will be
9 some time from now.

10 And I think it's very instructive to look at
11 the value of such parks as Seward Park and the
12 area around Green Lake which somebody generations
13 and generations ago had the foresight to set
14 aside, and which areas are kept really fairly
15 natural. And I think that this offers a similar
16 benefit for untold generations in the future.

17 I think that the lighting will just simply
18 destroy the view most of us have across the lake
19 at night. And as mentioned by someone else, we
20 1 pay a substantial amount of taxes, and I think a
21 good portion of those taxes for those of us who
22 have the view are related to the view.

23 Additionally, over the years I've noticed
24 2 that there's just a substantial increase in east-
25 west traffic on 65th and 75th, and I can't help

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but think that's going to expand dramatically and be a real problem. Thank you.

MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else like to speak? So we will take a five-minute break. And if you want to talk amongst yourselves, we don't need to record the break conversation and -- so we'll start again at about twelve till with the formal comments.

[A brief break was taken.]

MR. FRIEDLI: Linda Massey and Larry Kutz.

LINDA MASSEY

T26

I'm not entirely prepared for this. But after thinking about it for a long time, I think my biggest concern is the funding for this. I can see there are so many other projects that need to be funded -- the fire department, the police department, education, the libraries were closed down over the holidays because of not enough funding. And yet there seems to be enough funding for something so elaborate as this. I just don't understand the justification of the funding. That's about all I have to say, but it's amazing.

52

LARRY KUTZ

T27

I came late, so if this has already been discussed I apologize. Has any thought been given to having the lights on until ten o'clock and not eleven o'clock at night?

MR. FRIEDLI: There has been, but we're not addressing questions right now. It's really taking your comments.

MR. KUTZ: Well, in my case I think that eleven o'clock is too late to have lights on for this.

MR. FRIEDLI: Did you have a comment?

MARY LIU

T28

Hi. My name is Mary Liu, L-i-u. I'm 14 years old and I go to Roosevelt High School, and I'm also a resident of this neighborhood. I'd just like to say the reason why Magnuson Park is my favorite park. As you can see, the area the park covers is so, so much. Many of the parks around this area don't even cover a fourth as much of the area.

And I think the point of a park is to be

able to run around and enjoy the nature. And that's actually what a majority of the people here do is just come to the park and just walk and run. And I think the addition of sports facilities would reduce the amount of area that we have to just run. And also I believe the addition of sports facilities would increase traffic and increase the crime rate in the neighborhood.

And the final thing I would like to say is: Not just the neighbors of this park come to enjoy it. Many people from around Seattle come. So thank you.

MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else interested in speaking?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Are you answering questions at all?

MR. FRIEDLI: Not now. We may take a break in a little bit and answer some questions.

MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone interested in speaking? You sir?

RICHARD DEYO

T29

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3 My name is Richard Deyo. I don't have any
4 prepared comments. I live up in the View Ridge
5 neighborhood, just up the hill.

6 And I'm here today just really to express my
7 disappointment in the plan that's been developed
8 for the park. Considering that it's the last of
9 the undeveloped waterfront parks in Seattle, it
10 seems ashamed to turn 22 acres of it into
11 artificial turf, especially since this is wetland
12 that would be filled. And it just seems like a
13 terrible loss of an opportunity really to have a
14 beautiful waterfront park that's available for
15 quiet pleasures as opposed to heavy traffic and
16 lots of crowd noise.

17 I think there's little doubt that the noise
18 and the light will affect the wildlife in the
19 area as well as certainly the neighborhood. This
20 is an amphitheater. The hill makes this an
21 amphitheater. The noise carries enormously up
22 the hill. We hear everything that happens down
23 here. We hear concerts, we hear the Christmas
24 ships, we hear them ten blocks away. And I think
25 the noise levels here will be heard throughout

1 2 | the entire neighborhood.
CONT |

2 I hope that a better plan can be developed
3 because I think there are lots of opportunities.
4 We haven't been convinced yet that this is the
5 only plan that can work. We haven't been
6 convinced yet that there's a need for the ball
7 fields here. And there are lots of other
8 opportunities for developing property elsewhere
9 in the city it seems to us, including perhaps
10 3 | property that's owned by the Port of Seattle
11 | where there are appropriate locations for this
12 | kind of development, and perhaps even
13 | infrastructure in place already. Thanks.

14 MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else like to 'speak?
15 Okay. We'll take another five-minute break and
16 give the court reporters another opportunity to
17 take a break and have informal discussions if you
18 like.

19 [A brief break was taken.]

20 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. Anyone else? Could you
21 give us your name.
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LISA DECKER

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3 My name is Lisa Decker. I wrote this
4 actually on behalf of my husband and I hopefully
5 to address exactly what you guys are looking at
6 today.

7 As citizens who have enjoyed bird watching,
8 just walking, and dog walking right here in
9 Magnuson Park for many years, actually about ten
10 years, we are urging the city to scrap or
11 seriously modify it's most current plan for this
12 park. We don't live in View Ridge, but we
13 actually drive to this park from our home in the
14 Northgate area. Over the years we have
15 appreciated many positive changes which have
16 taken place at the park. We have seen a lot of
17 changes, most of them are positive. But we are
18 totally dismayed by the newest plan.

19 This park from our observation, and I think
20 you would find it statistically that this park
21 serves many forms of recreation, everything from
22 boating to kite flying. And it's one of only a
23 few right here in the city where you actually
24 have open space: Open space to enjoy the views,
25 sky, the wildlife, lot of bird life, and relative

1 quiet.

2 We've noticed the great habitat restoration
3 work that Audubon has done here. We have
4 personally seen bald eagles here many times,
5 hawks, all kinds of songbirds, and have always
6 remarked that this is a great place to come and
7 enjoy that kind of thing, and there really aren't
8 any other places like this within the urban area
9 of Seattle that you can do that.

10 We know that there was a blue ribbon
11 commission proposal that recognized the special
12 values, the multiple values of this park. And at
13 the same time that plan did provide for a
14 moderate increase in the play fields.

15 But we feel that the current proposal is
16 totally out of proportion, that it will change
17 this park totally, and it will also change the
18 neighborhood -- even though we don't live here,
19 we kind of put ourselves in the shoes of people
20 that live here and just by picturing what's going
21 to happen. We think it's incredibly negative.

22 In fact we do understand that the plan was a
23 total shock to this neighborhood and the people
24 who now use it most, after a lot of process went
25 into what was going to happen here, and a lot of

1 sharing that was going on for multiple uses for
2 the park.

3 The proposed sports complex, from what we
4 understand, would have huge and far-reaching
5 negative impacts. The plan is for 22 acres of
6 artificial turf, which -- I still don't quite
7 understand that. I have to get an explanation of
8 why we're using artificial turf. This would
9 2 displace natural areas and, of course, natural
10 drainage. 940 lit parking spaces. And most
11 damaging of all to the birds and the wildlife
12 would be the 85-foot lights which are equivalent
13 to about 60 percent of Safeco Field's lighting,
14 sometimes to be lit until 11:00 p.m.

15 We have seen, for example, Marymoor Park at
16 night, and we can hardly imagine how much worse
17 Magnuson will be.

18 We also understand that no search was done
19 to find more appropriate locations for these
20 brightly lit and much used play fields. This
21 3 would seem to be in a city like Seattle totally
22 essential considering how poorly these noisy and
23 brightly lit fields are going to fit into a
24 completely residential area, not to mention the
25 long distance a lot of folks will have to drive

1 just to get to this little northeastern pocket of
2 the city.

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4 CONT

It seems like this is being asked to serve
as the sole sports complex for a majority of the
city, and that doesn't seem to be very
appropriate.

4

7 In addition I can also guess at what the
8 noise level will be, and I understand that the
9 DEIS addresses this; but it doesn't really take
10 into account that it's going to affect the bird
11 life, it's going to affect the wildlife totally.

12 I'd also like to mention that my husband and
13 I both voted for the Pro-Parks Levy, as we have
14 voted for almost every other levy and bond that
15 we feel will improve the quality of life in
16 Seattle, so we don't feel like we are being
17 stingy in our attitude towards the people that
18 like to play sports. We know it's a great
19 outlet, but we also know these people have a very
20 strong lobby; and we feel that that's why this is
21 happening, not because it's in the very best
22 interest of most of the citizens.

23 So in summary, I would say that this
24 particular park land is absolutely not in the
25 best interest of the majority of citizens or the

majority of people that use the park right now,
and that it seriously degrades both the wildlife
habitat and the very best qualities that Magnuson
Park presently has. Thank you, very much.

MR. FRIEDLI: Janice Bragg.

JANICE BRAGG

T31

My name is Janice Bragg. The point of an
environmental impact statement is to state
clearly what the impacts of a project will be on
the environment, so that decision makers can make
an informed decision. Instead, this draft SEIS
says we are not sure what the impacts will be.
Here are three of many ambiguous statements in
the draft: 1) The DSEIS reports sound levels on
Marsh Island, next to 520, and shows (not
surprisingly) that it's noisier next to 520 than
it is at Magnuson. It's not clear what the point
is, but the author states that Marsh Island is a
"wetland area with noted water fowl populations."

I'm not sure of the point of that. We are
not concerned with what the effects of noise will
be on water fowl populations at Sand Point
because most duck species don't breed in Western

1 Washington. The ones which do breed here,
2 Mallards and Canada Geese, are abundant. We're
3 concerned with threatened, protected song birds,
4 not abundant water fowl.

5 More importantly, ducks don't depend on
6 vocalization for breeding success, as far as we
7 know. We can surmise this from the simplicity of
8 the Mallard's quack or the Canada Goose's honk.
9 Song birds are smaller, produce quieter sounds,
10 they produce complex songs, they are each
11 species-specific, having evolved over thousands
12 of years. They also produce a variety of call
13 notes (alarm calls, contact calls) to
14 communicate. As far as we know, the breeding
15 success of song birds does depend on their song,
16 that is on their ability to hear each other.
17 Noise in their breeding habitat will have a
18 significant impact on their ability to reproduce.

19 2) The DSEIS states that "research indicates
20 wildlife can experience adverse responses to
21 noise. But research has been based on different
22 types of sound sources and not on sports fields."
23 The DSEIS admits that there will be noise of
24 greater frequency and duration created by the
25 sports field but that the degree cannot be

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"conclusively determined because no research has been done specifically regarding noise from athletic fields affecting wildlife." That to me is disingenuous. Noise is noise. We know that breeding success is affected by noise in some bird species. We don't need to complete the project to learn that sports field noise has as much an impact as other noise. The SEIS needs to state that the impact will not be insignificant.

3

3) The DSEIS states that Sandhill Cranes nesting meters away from a Florida highway showed no response to passing traffic. Why mention this? There are no Sandhill Cranes at Magnuson or at Sand Point. We are concerned with the effects of noise on songbirds, not on cranes.

4

On the other hand, we are concerned with the effects of noise after sunset on Barn Owl, a species which is not mentioned at all in the DSEIS. Barn Owl hunts the area currently at night, is a species which evolved acute hearing to find its prey and is not an abundant species and therefore needs our protection. Sand Point is quiet now at night and it will have increased noise every night until after 11:00 p.m. with this project. The DSEIS ignores an important

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species currently at Sand Point which depends on
quiet. It needs to state that the impact of
noise on Barn Owl will not be insignificant.

Do I have more time?

MR. FRIEDLI: Yes.

5

MS. BRAGG: The other thing I was offended
by in the DSEIS is that several times it refers
to -- we don't know how the noise will impact the
wildlife, but if it does impact the wildlife, the
wildlife will come back after we have this
wetlands complex. We don't know that that
project -- because it doesn't have funding, we
don't know that that part of the project will
ever be completed. So I think it's a little bit
unfair to justify the noise from the sports
fields and say it will be okay because we'll
later on hope that wildlife will come back if we
get funding. Thank you.

MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else interested in
speaking?

BRUCE FIRESTONE

T32

I will. My name is Bruce Firestone. I live
at 7507 56th Avenue Northeast. You've probably

1 heard at length today about the inadequacies of
2 the SEIS. I would like to just speak for a
3 moment about the adequacies of the environmental
4 impact statement.

5 If you read through that document, it is
6 quite clear where it is adequate, that the effect
7 of noise on the habitats and wildlife in the park
8 will be severe and adverse. You will also read
9 that the impact of noise on the people who live
10 closest to the park in the transitional housing
11 will be quite severe. You will also read that
12 there will be enormous adverse impacts of many
13 other kinds on people who live in the park, on
14 wildlife in the park, and on the people who live
15 in this neighborhood generally, and on the people
16 of Seattle in many respects.

17 I'd just like to remind and perhaps say for
18 the record that the purpose of an environmental
19 impact statement is to advise decision makers so
20 that they can make the best decisions. Decision
21 makers in this case certainly include the mayor,
22 and they include members of the city council.
23 And so for the record I would like to ask those
24 people to read the environmental impact statement
25 and to read the commentaries on the environmental

1 impact statement because the adverse impacts of
2 the plan for eliminating and artificially turfed
3 fields in this park are very substantial and very
4 damaging.

5 But I would also like to suggest that the
6 decision makers in this are not only the city
7 council members and the mayor, but they're
8 members of the Department of Parks, Parks
9 Commission, and people who's responsibility it is
10 as staff members of the Parks Department to make
11 sure that the plans that are devised and
12 implemented are for the best interests of the
13 city.

14 And so I will end by asking that not' only
15 city council members and the mayor read and think
16 about the adverse impacts of this plan but that
17 the Department of Parks as well, the commission
18 and the staff, not view this as an adversarial
19 proceeding in which people are opposing an agenda
20 of the parks, but rather view this as an effort
21 on the part of many well-meaning people to give
22 input to the Department of Parks and Recreation
23 that there are things very seriously wrong with
24 the project as proposed and that it should be
25 very seriously reconsidered. Thank you.

1 MR. FRIEDLI: Bob Dorres?

3 BOB DORRES

T33

4
5 Hello. My name is Bob Dorres and I live
6 right up the hill here. I just got here, so I
7 hope I don't repeat a lot of things. I moved
8 into this neighborhood about 12 years ago. One
9 of the main reasons was looking down at Sand
10 Point and the incredible open space, and
11 especially at night when it's completely dark and
12 quiet. And there really are very few places in
13 the whole of greater Seattle that you can
14 appreciate that -- maybe Lincoln Park, a few of
15 the other big open spaces, but nothing that is
16 really just flat and open.

17 And I've been dismayed by the process of
18 cobbling up this beautiful piece of real estate,
19 and everybody's grabbing a little piece of it for
20 their own purposes, which I can understand that
21 we need to satisfy a lot of the very special
22 interest groups. And I have a son that plays
23 sports -- he plays soccer, indoor soccer, roller
24 hockey. I like to participate in biking and all
25 that.

1 However, lighting this facility at night I
2 think will destroy the look of this whole
3 neighborhood -- plus the added noise, it's like a
4 megaphone as it comes up the hill. You can hear
5 things quite nicely. A lot of times I like to
6 sit out at night and just watch and listen.
7 There's hawks that are coming up the hill. Like
8 even right now, the lights from the roller hockey
9 facility, which doesn't have curtains, it's
10 amazing how much that has changed the night view,
11 just one building with the lights on till 11:30,
12 12:30 at night. My daughter never used to have
13 blinds in her room. Now she can't sleep without
14 them. I go in there and it's amazing how bright
15 it is just from that one building. I can't even
16 imagine the effect of this huge lighted forest of
17 the fields. I think we need the fields, but I
18 would propose we do them unlit. Thank you.

19 MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else interested in
20 speaking? Okay. We'll take another
21 seven-minute break.

22 [A brief break was taken.]

23 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. Can you give us your
24 name.
25

JAMES WARD

My name is James Ward. I live at 7326 57th Avenue Northeast, just up on the hill in View Ridge. I'm a very new resident. I moved in in September, so I don't have years of history to use as a background or basis of point of comparison.

I fairly recently got involved understanding some of the issues. I don't know them all in depth. I sort of want to acknowledge the importance of the issue of sound pollution on our wildlife. Having acknowledged that, let me also simply state my personal concerns which have to do with pollution of all kinds. And I don't understand why pollution of the chemical variety or the variety that goes up into the atmosphere is so appreciated for its destructive effects, and both sound and light pollution seem to get less attention. I think these are important sources of pollution for wildlife and for human life, and this will be effectively in our back yards.

And that's really all I wanted to say is to protest this new source of pollution of the sound

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and light variety in our neighborhood. Thank
you.

MARILYN NICHOLS

T35

My name is Marilyn Nichols, I'm "Nicky"
Nickols, and I live up at Matthews Beach area,
and I've been a resident there for ten years.

And I am opposed to having the transitions
take place that you all are supporting and I'm
opposed because of the wildlife, the effects it
would have on wildlife and the effects it would
definitely have on the human life here. As this
gentleman stated, that having all the lights and
having all the sound would be -- and especially
on the traffic is a major concern for me, being a
person who uses Sand Point to come home from work
on every day.

And also I see this place as a beautiful
park that has had a lot of benefits for a lot of
people -- the housing, the arts, various things
that are proposed in some of the statements that
I have read before. I'm in support of those, and
I'm definitely against the idea of having this
become a major sports field. Thank you.

1 MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else interested in
2 giving formal comments?

3 So we will take a break until someone else
4 comes in that wants to speak.

5 [A brief break was taken.]

6 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. We have another person
7 who would like to speak

8
9 TOM HINCKLEY T36

10
11 My name is Tom Hinckley. I'm a resident of
12 Hawthorne Hills, and I live just up the hill
13 above Magnuson Park.

14 I'd like to focus my comments in two areas.

15 One, just the general realm of light pollution
16 1 and the impact that light pollution has in
17 degrading the human experience. And then the
18 second comment involves what I regard as the
19 incompatibility of developing a restored meadow
20 2 wetland area and then having a brightly lit
21 environment. It would seem to me that if
22 economics is of concern, you do one, not both.
23 So those are my comments. Thank you.

24 MR. FRIEDLI: Anyone else that would like to
25 speak? Any formal comments?

1 MR. HINCKLEY: I could just add one analogy
2 and that is: You don't build an airport next to
3 Benaroya Hall. That would be the analogy I'd use
4 for putting a lit field next to a restored
5 wildlife area.

6 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. We'll take a break
7 until someone else says they would like to speak.

8 [A brief break was taken.]

9 MR. FRIEDLI: Okay. Could you give us your
10 name.

11
12 EILEEN BRYANT

T37

13
14 Eileen Bryant. I live in this neighborhood.
15 I use Magnuson Park as a place to enjoy nature in
16 the city. And I think, you know, a few lights to
17 let people play games sometimes when it's dark,
18 that's fine. But I just don't think the majority
19 of people really truly use the park to play
20 soccer at nine o'clock at night.

21 I think most people use the park as a green
22 space for serenity in the city. And I feel like
23 this is a bit like the sports stadiums. I mean,
24 the general Seattle public voted against sports
25 stadiums twice, but they forced stadiums on the

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rest of us. And they're fine, but somehow the majority of the public doesn't get hurt for sporting event-related activities.

So what are we supposed to do with this? Is that what people are doing, just saying why they are opposed to it?

MR. FRIEDLI: Uh-huh. Okay, thank you.

9 DAVID GORDON

T38

10
11 I'm David Gordon, and I live close by. We
12 recently bought a house in the Hawthorne Hills
13 area, and part of the reason was so that we could
14 see the twinkling lights of Kirkland in the
15 evening.

16 And I've been to a couple of these meetings
17 so far, and my impression from having heard the
18 presentations -- and I hope my impression is
19 wrong -- is that really it's all been decided and
20 that these series of meetings that we're going
21 through are just formalities. And that really
22 there is very little concern about whether the
23 neighborhood is in favor of it or opposed; it
24 doesn't really matter to the people making the
25 decisions, and that you're only going to change

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the amount of lighting if we somehow force you
to. It's not because -- that you care about
whether we -- if it's okay with us or not. So
that's my statement.

5 MR. FRIEDLI: Thank you.

6 [End of public comments.]
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3 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
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4 COUNTY OF KING)

6 I, Catherine A. Decker, a Notary Public in and for
7 the State of Washington, do hereby certify:

8 That the foregoing comments were taken before me
9 at the time and place therein set forth;

10 That the comments was recorded stenographically by
11 me, and thereafter transcribed under my direction;

12 That the foregoing transcript is a true record of
13 the comments given at the time, to the best of my
14 ability.

15 I further certify that I am in no way related to
16 any party to this matter, nor do I have any interest in
17 the matter.

18 | Witness my hand and seal this 14th day of April, 2003.

20 Catherine A. Decker

21 CATHERINE A. DECKER, Notary
22 Public in and for the State of
23 Washington, residing at Medina.
Commission expires June 29, 2005.
WA CSR No. DE-CK-EC-A502J5